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# WARRIOR





A **MUTANT** IS A MORE-THAN-HUMAN BEING--BORN WITH AN X-FACTOR IN HIS GENETIC STRUCTURE THAT GIVES HIM SUPER-HUMAN POWERS. HE IS AN OFTEN FEARED MINORITY.

THE X-FACTOR ORGANIZATION HAS RESCUED A GROUP OF YOUNG MUTANTS AND BROUGHT THEM HERE TO THEIR HEADQUARTERS IN LOWER MANHATTAN--DESIGNED TO BE A SECRET REFUGE!

THE SECRET WAS SAFE--UNTIL NOW!

MUTANT SCUM, YOU ARE OURS!

BUDDA! BUDDA! BUDDA! BUDDA!

ARTIE!

NEVER!

RICTOR--YOU KNOW THEM? WHO...WHAT ARE THEY?

STAN LEE PRESENTS...

# IF I SHOULD DIE<sub>1000</sub>

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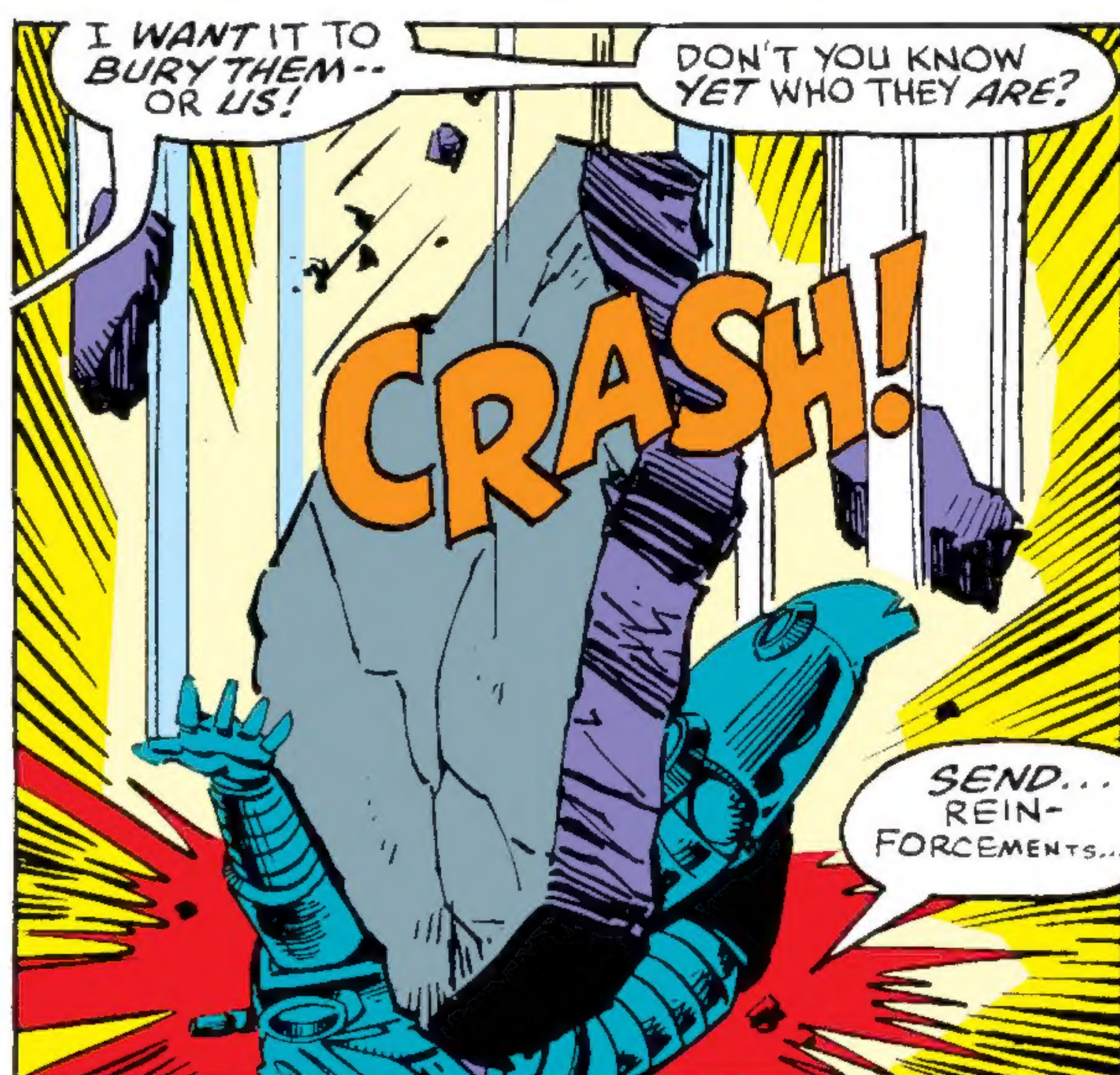
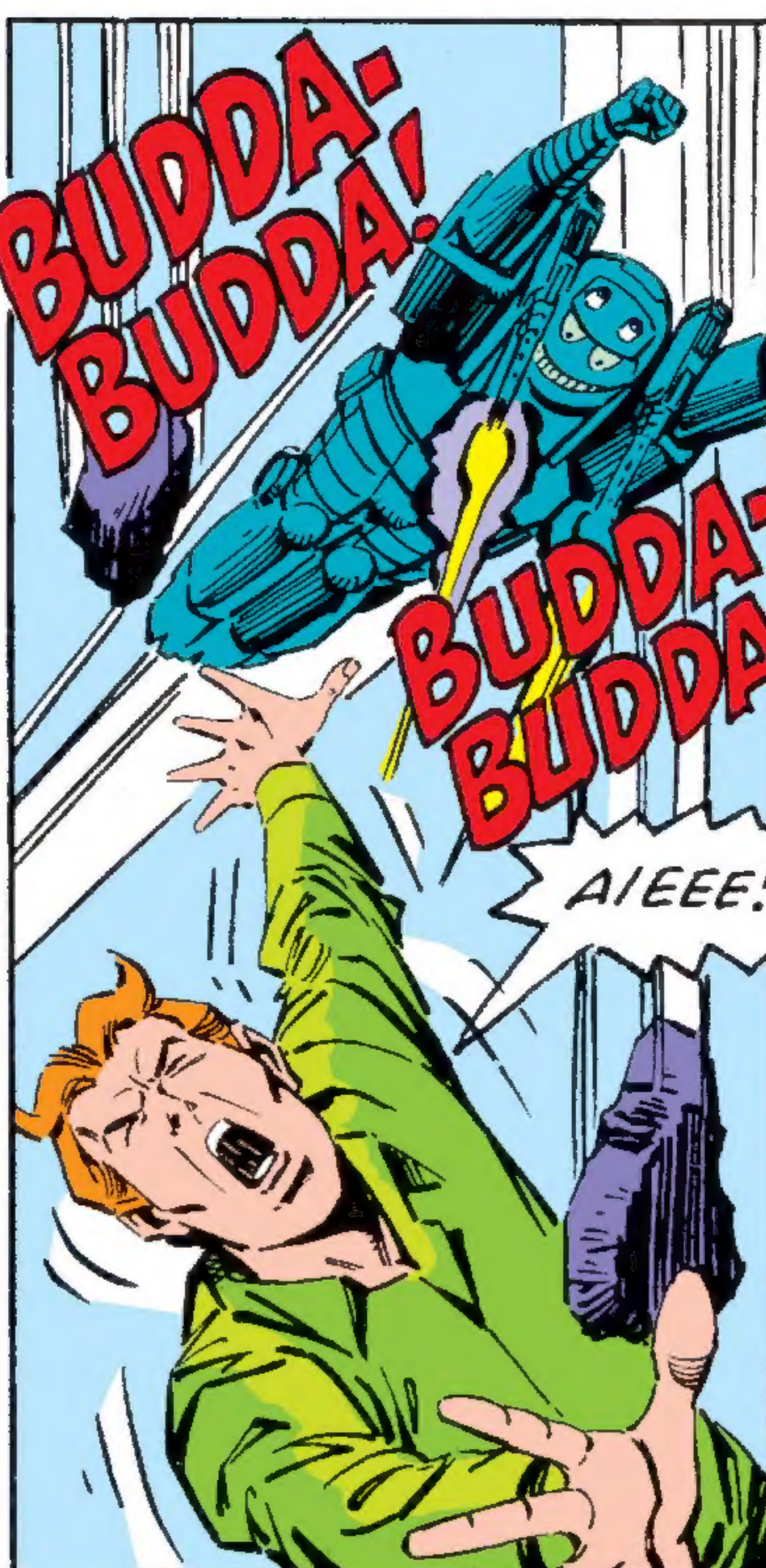
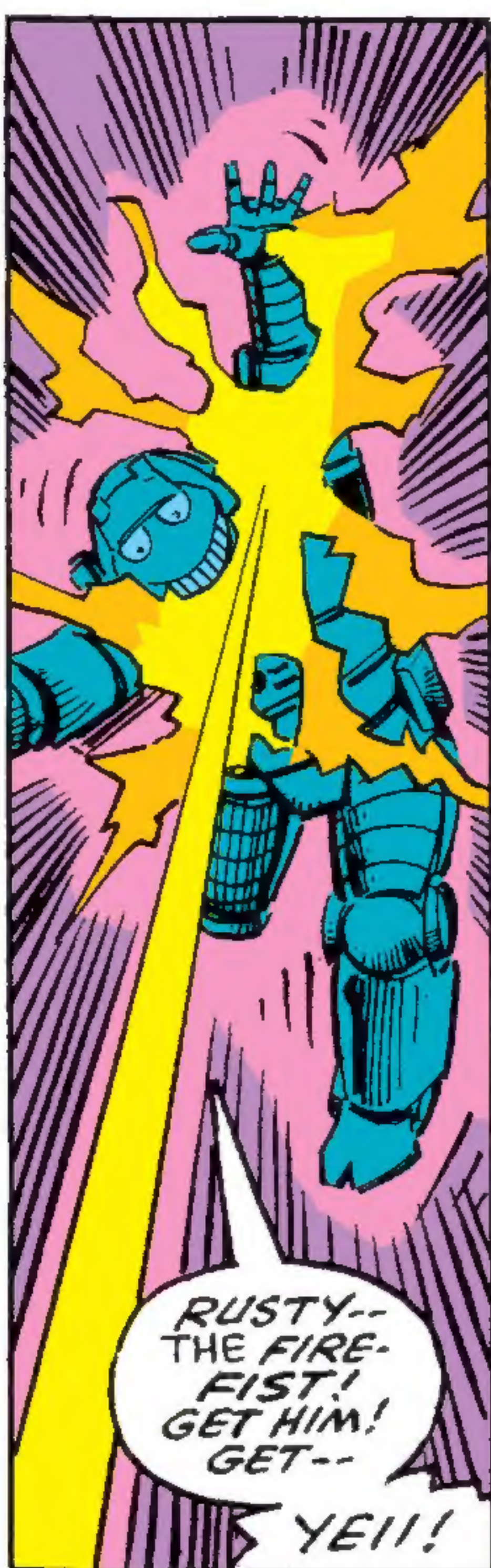
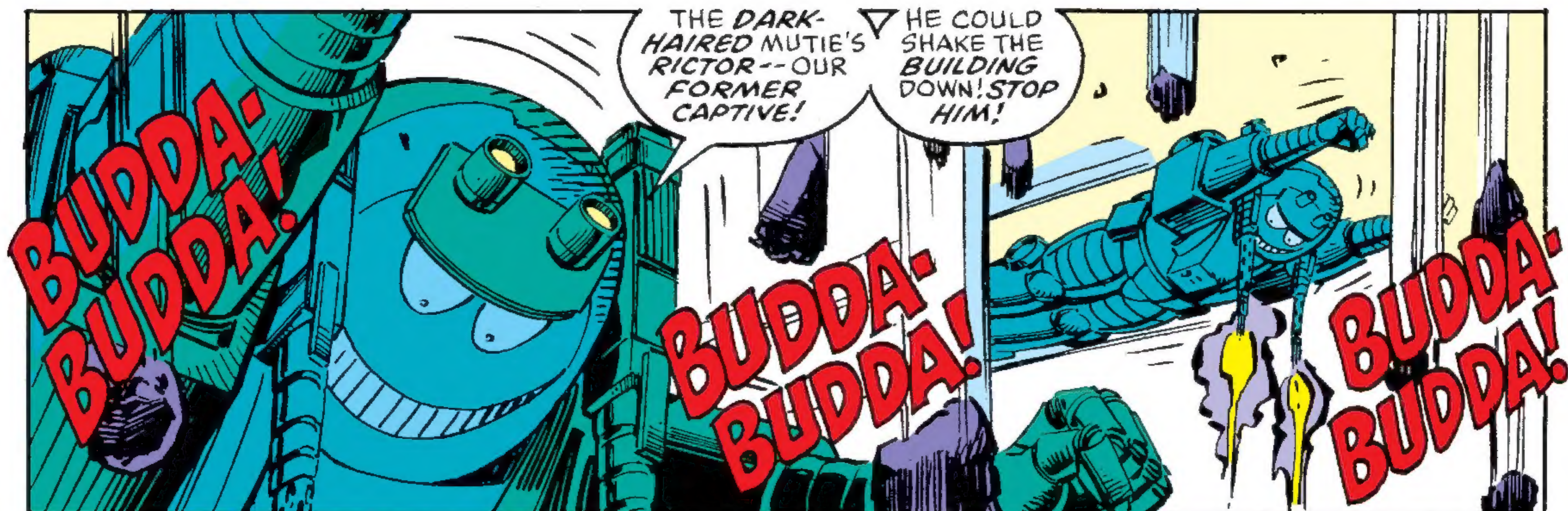
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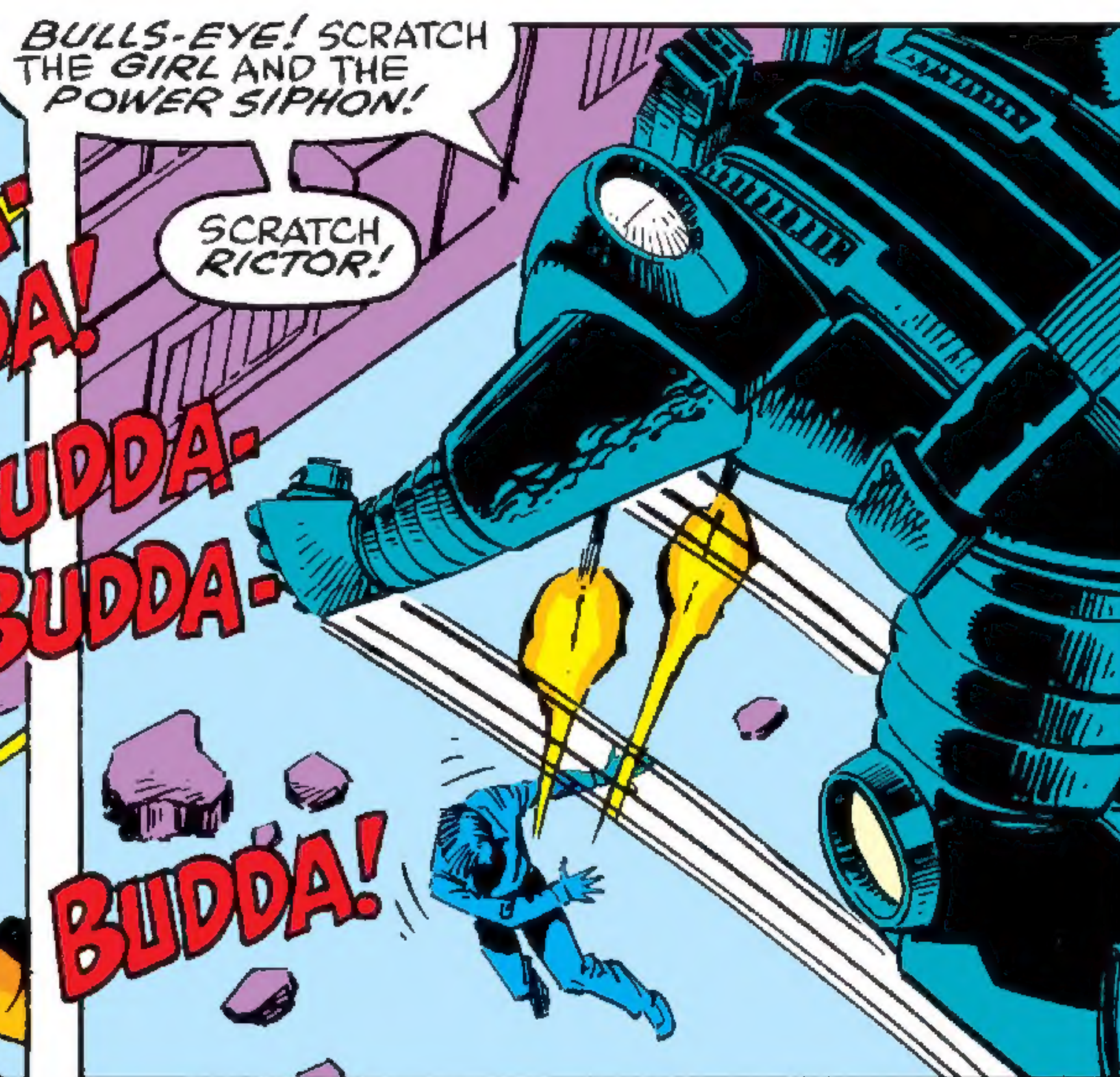
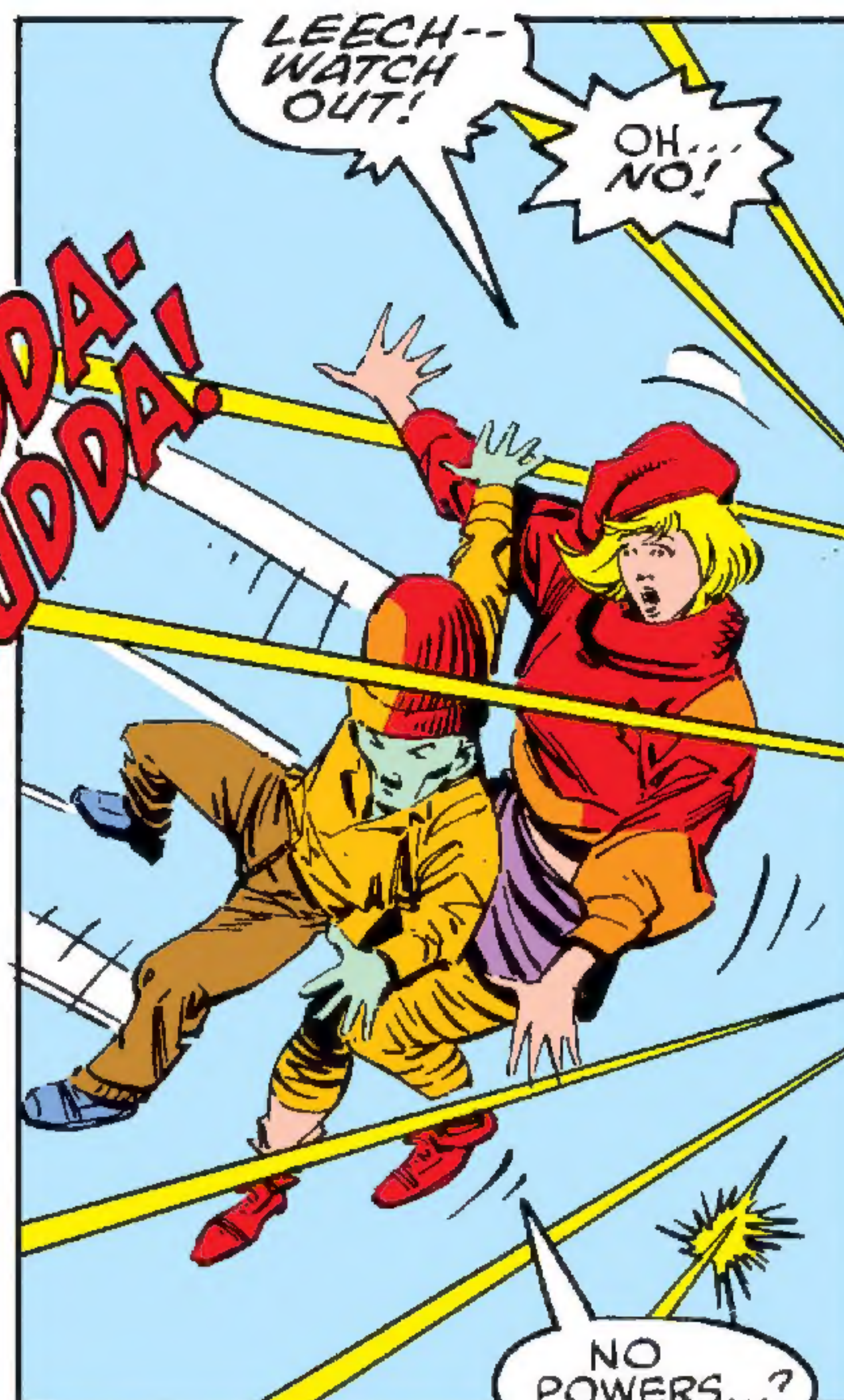
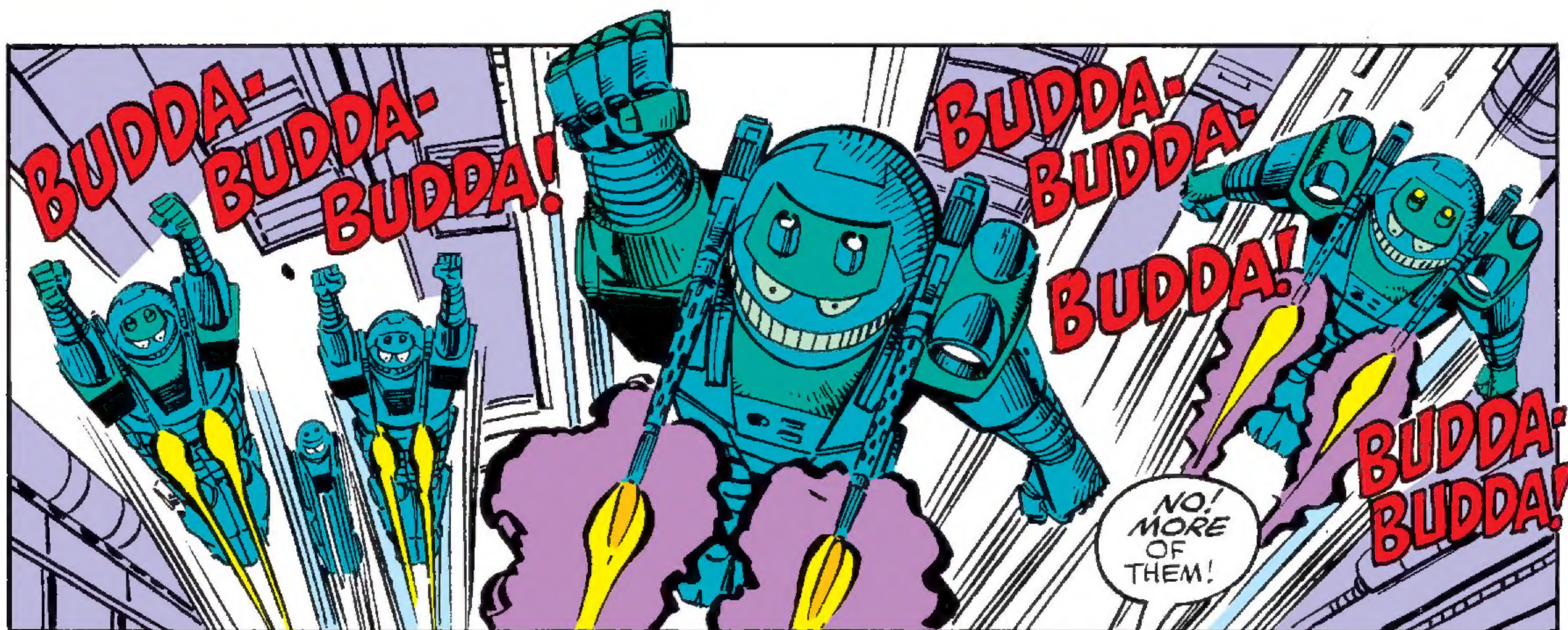
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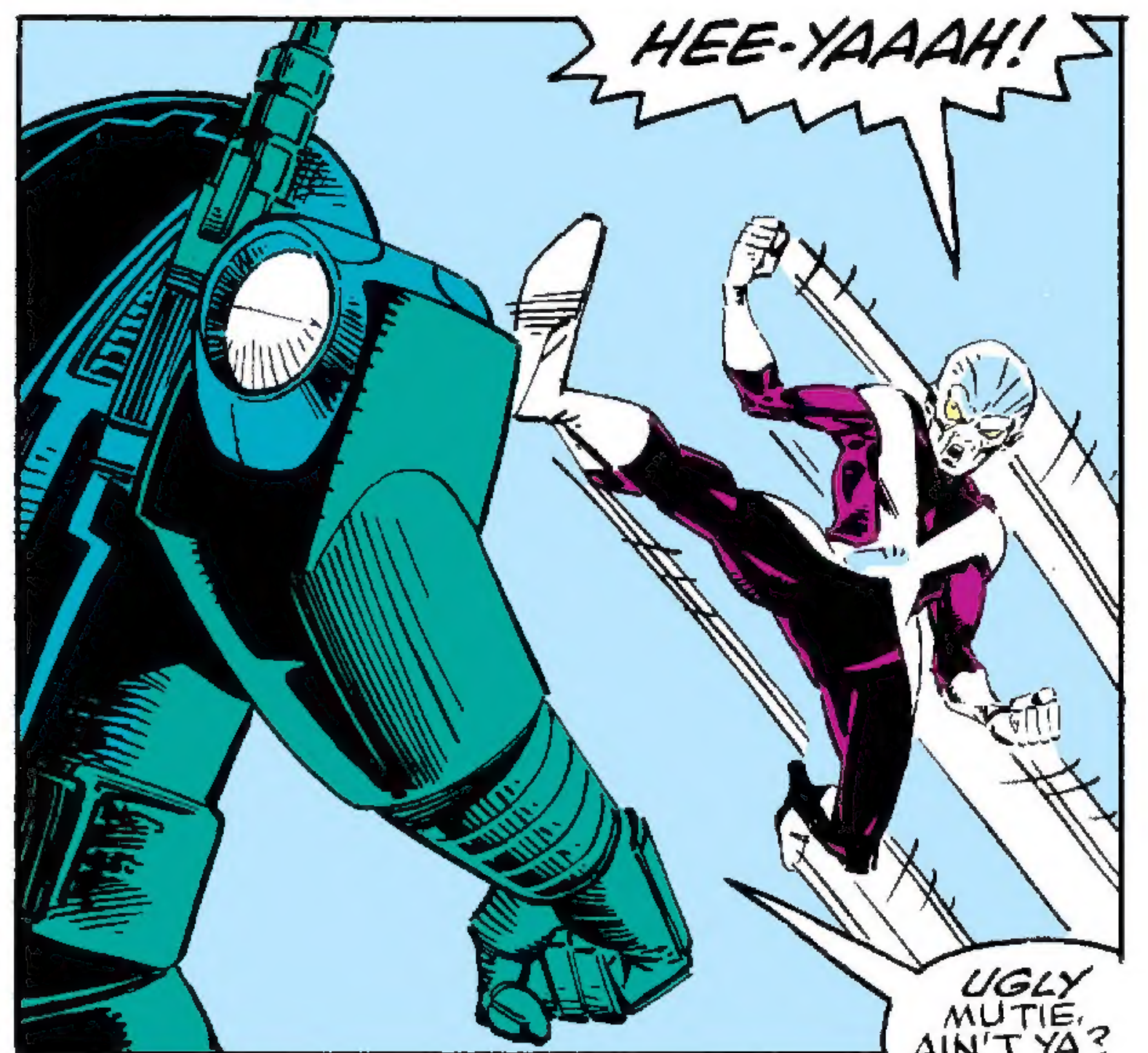
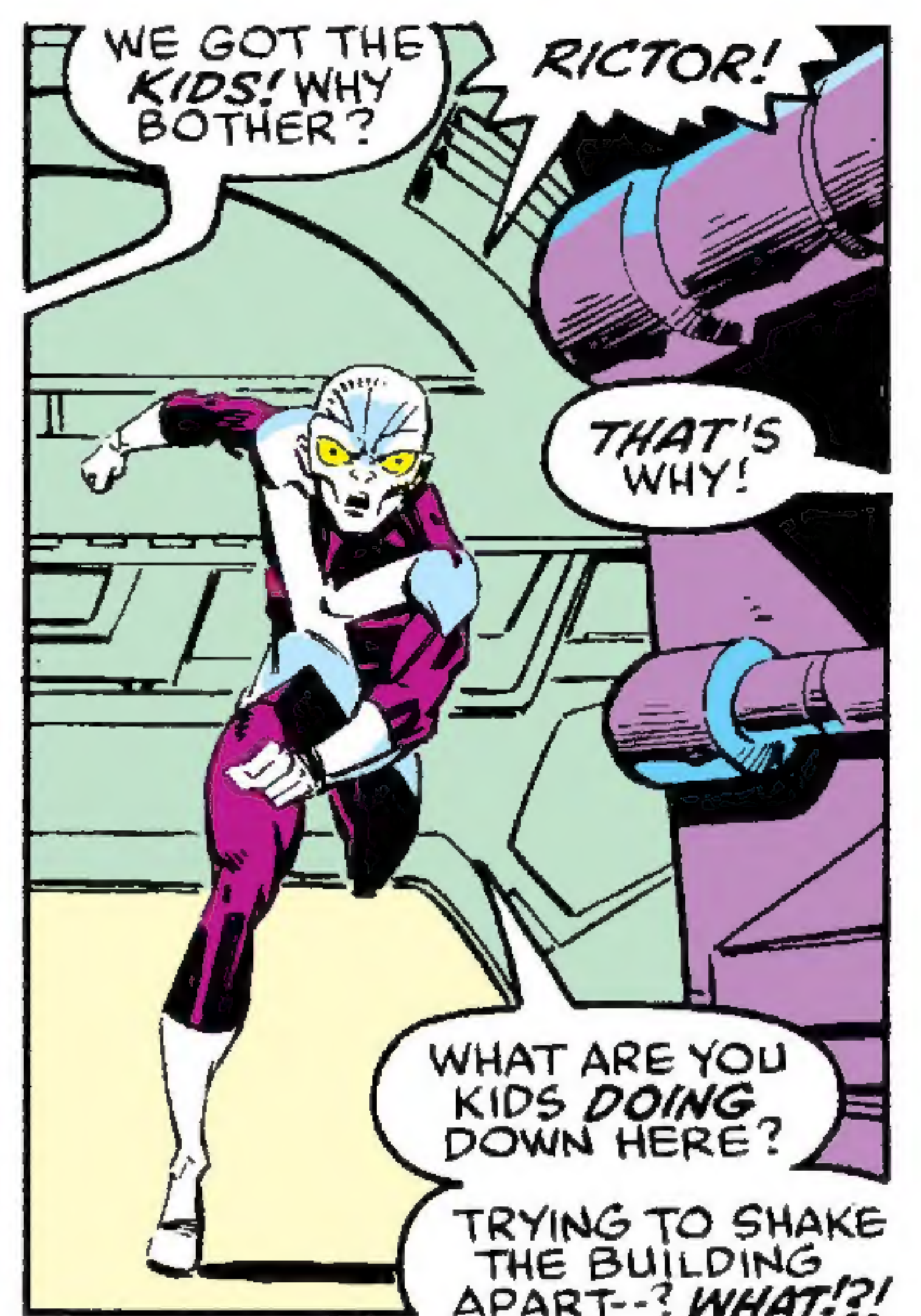
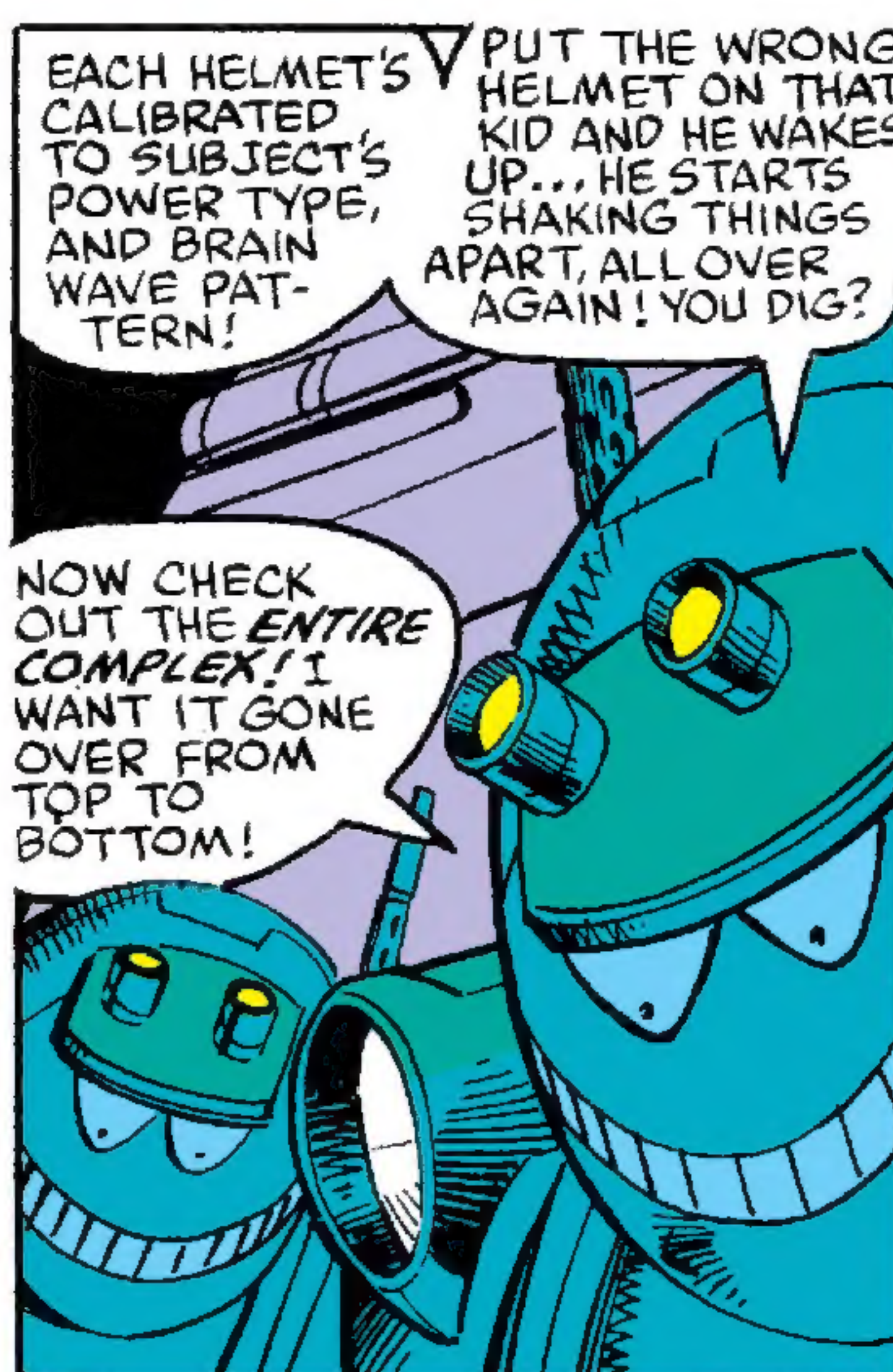
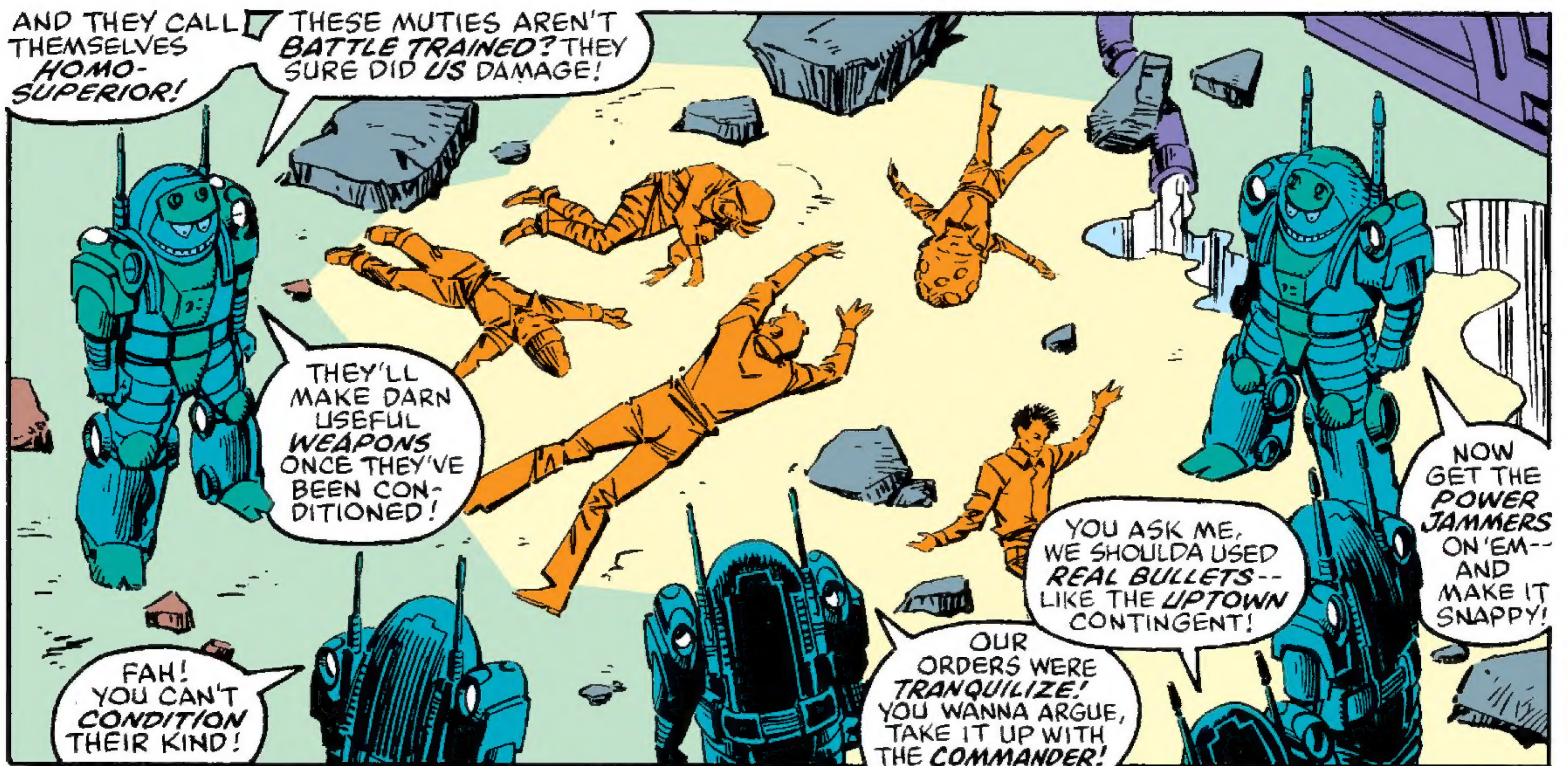




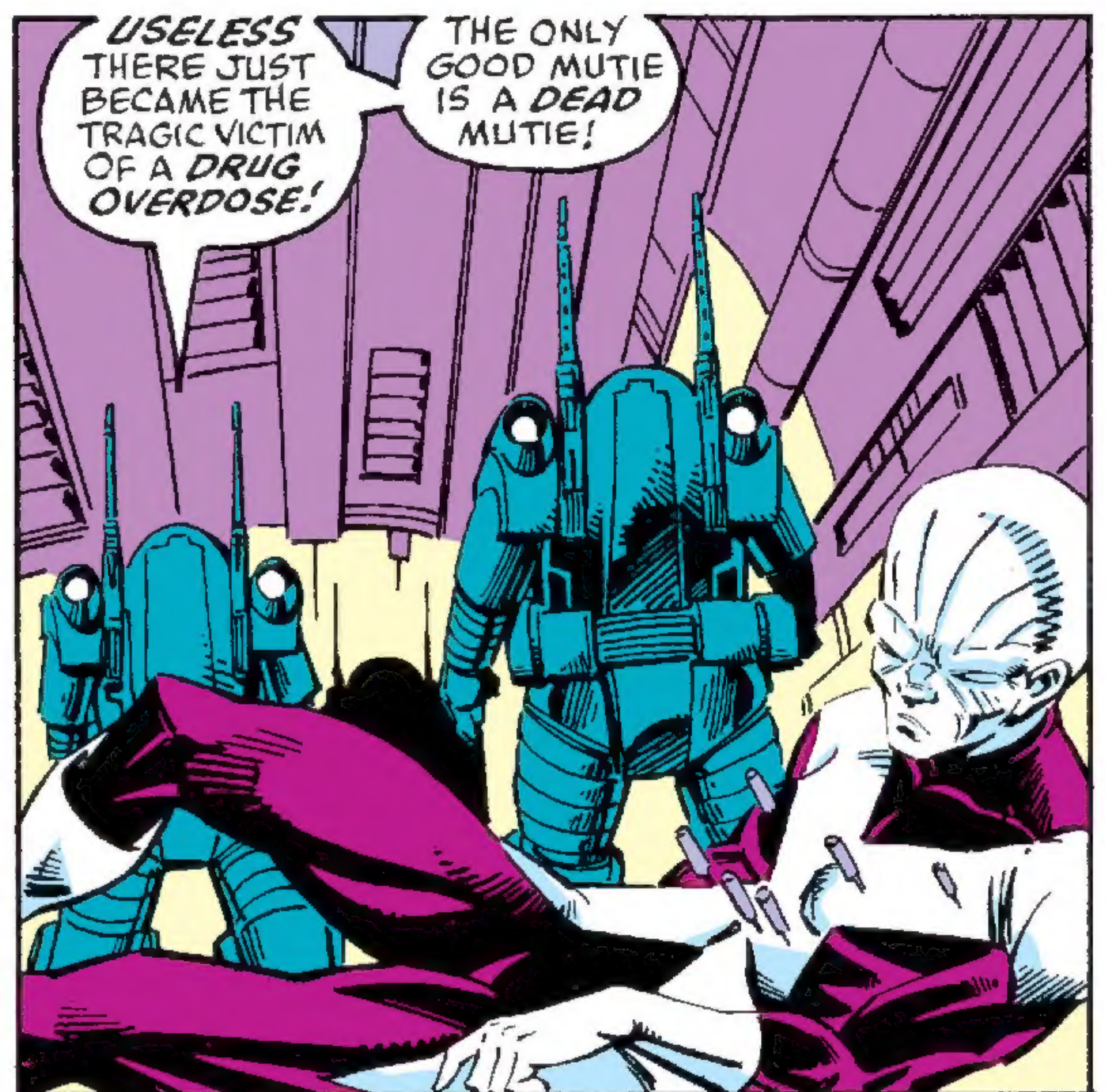
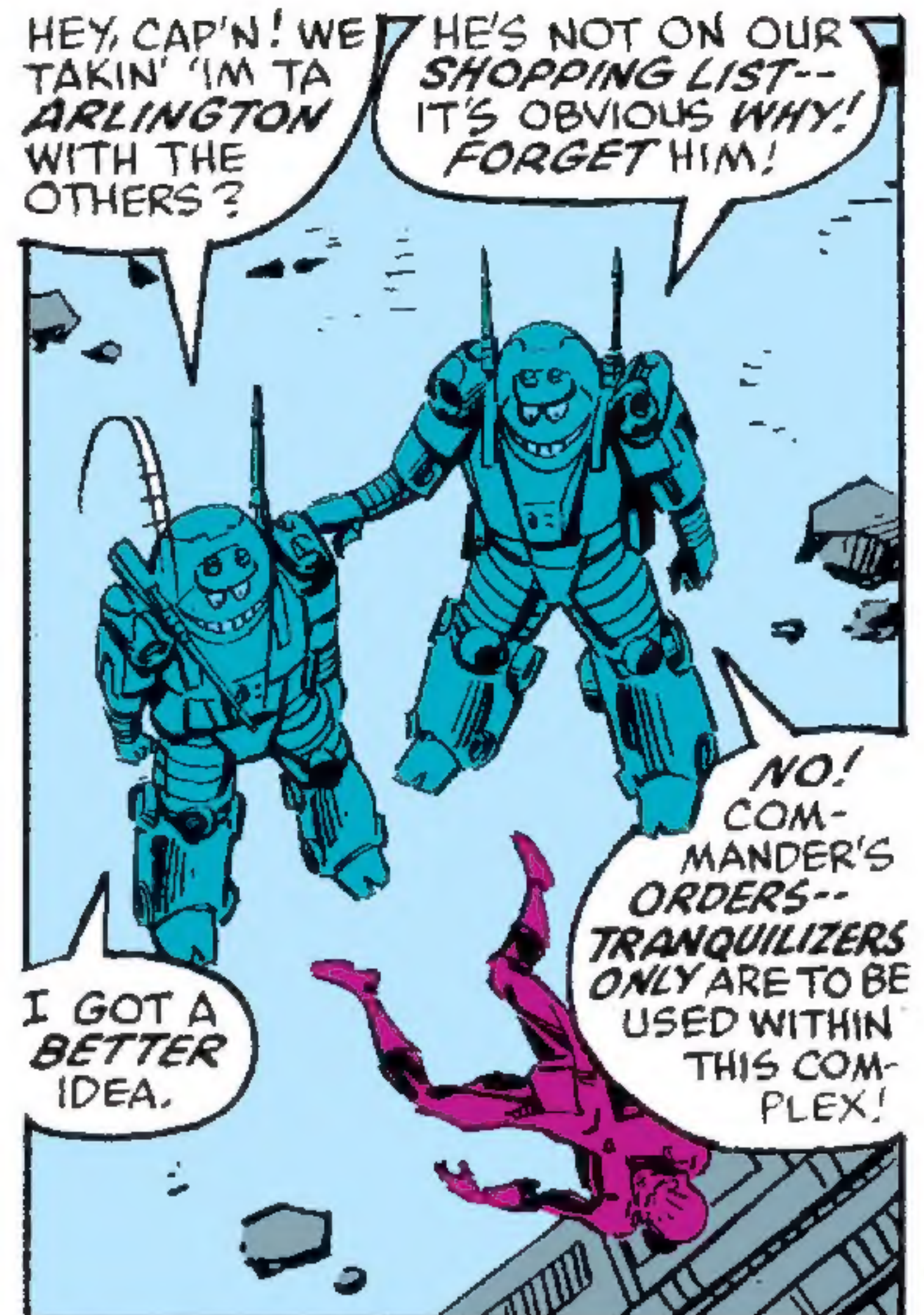
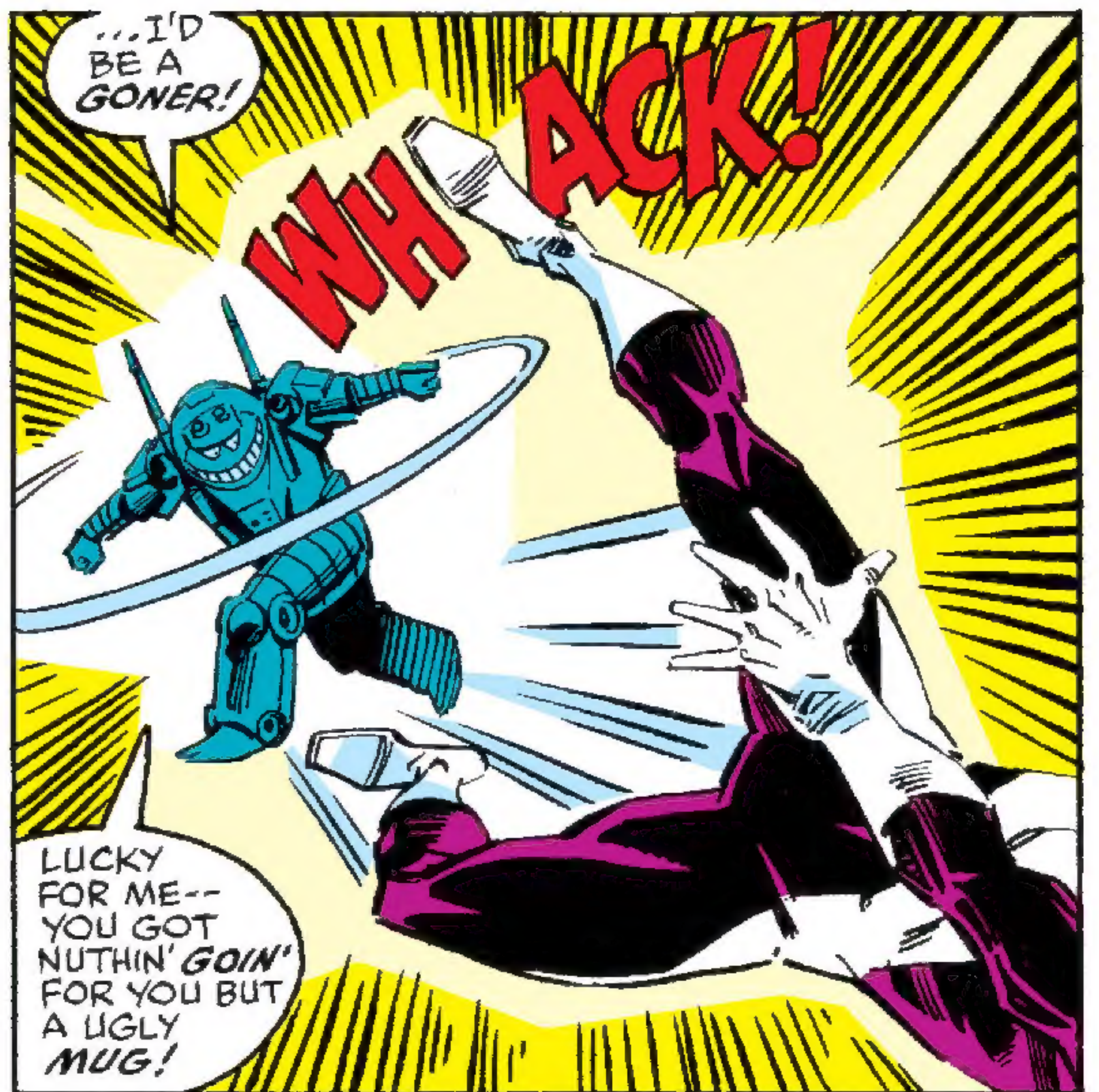
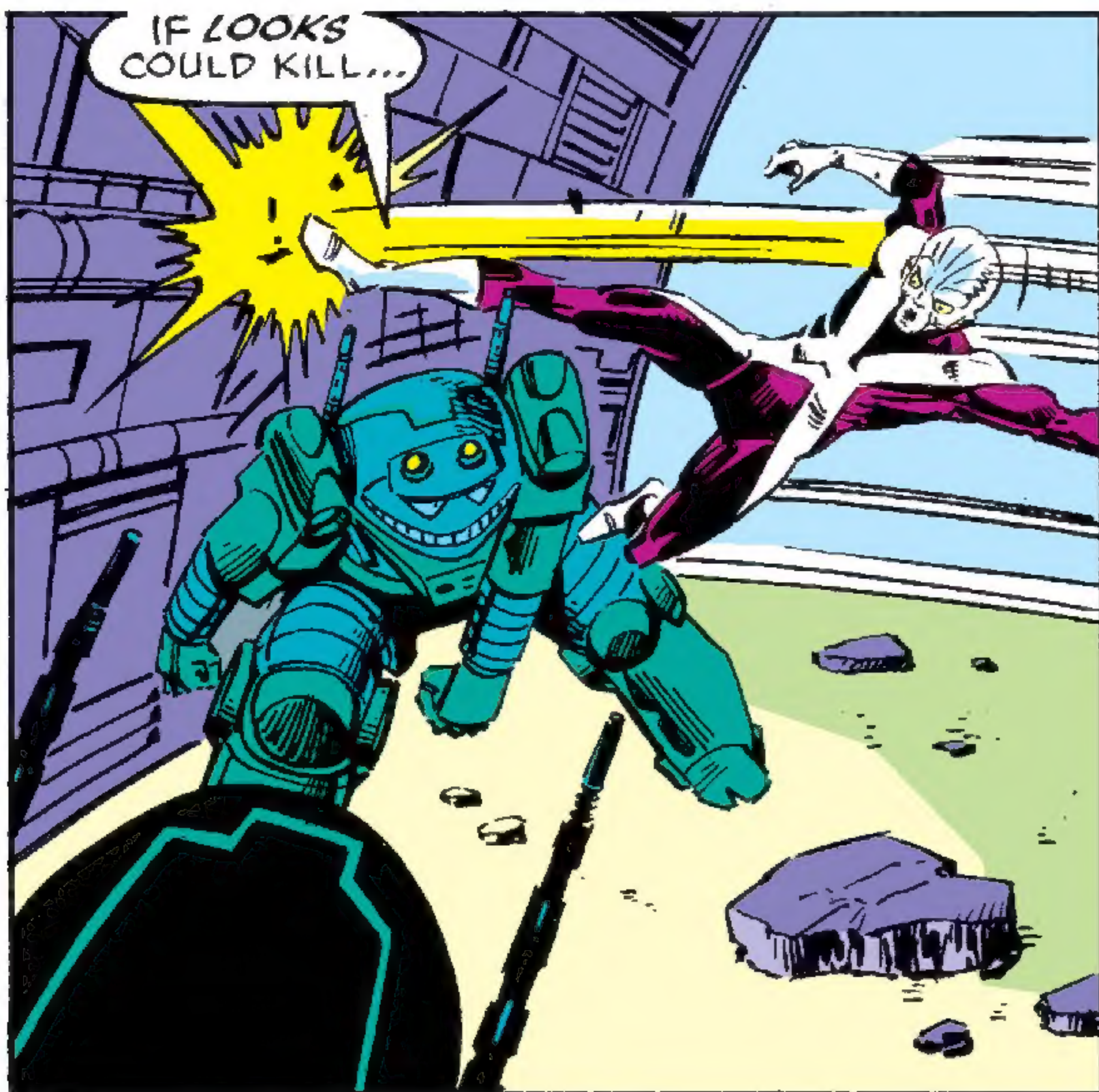




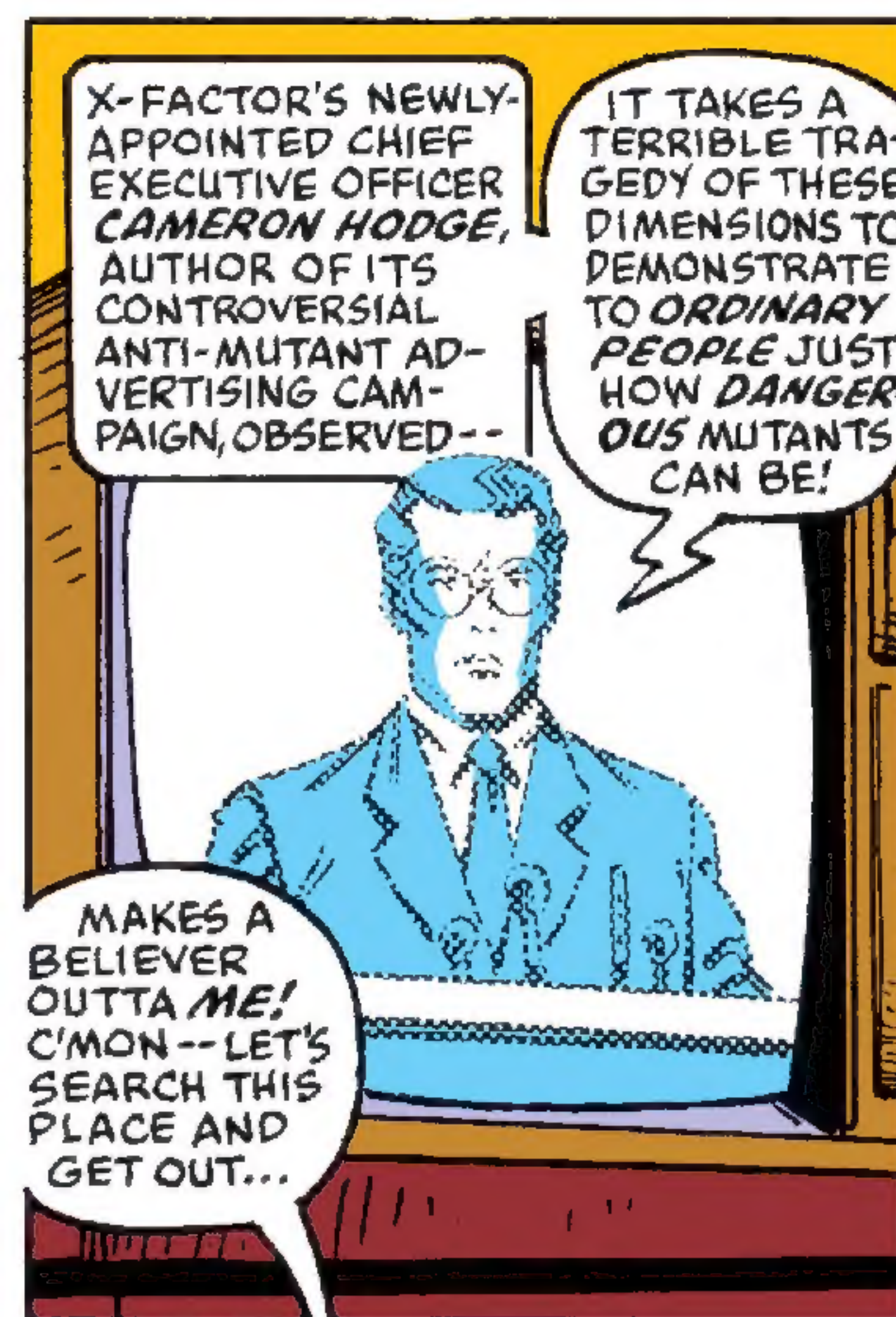
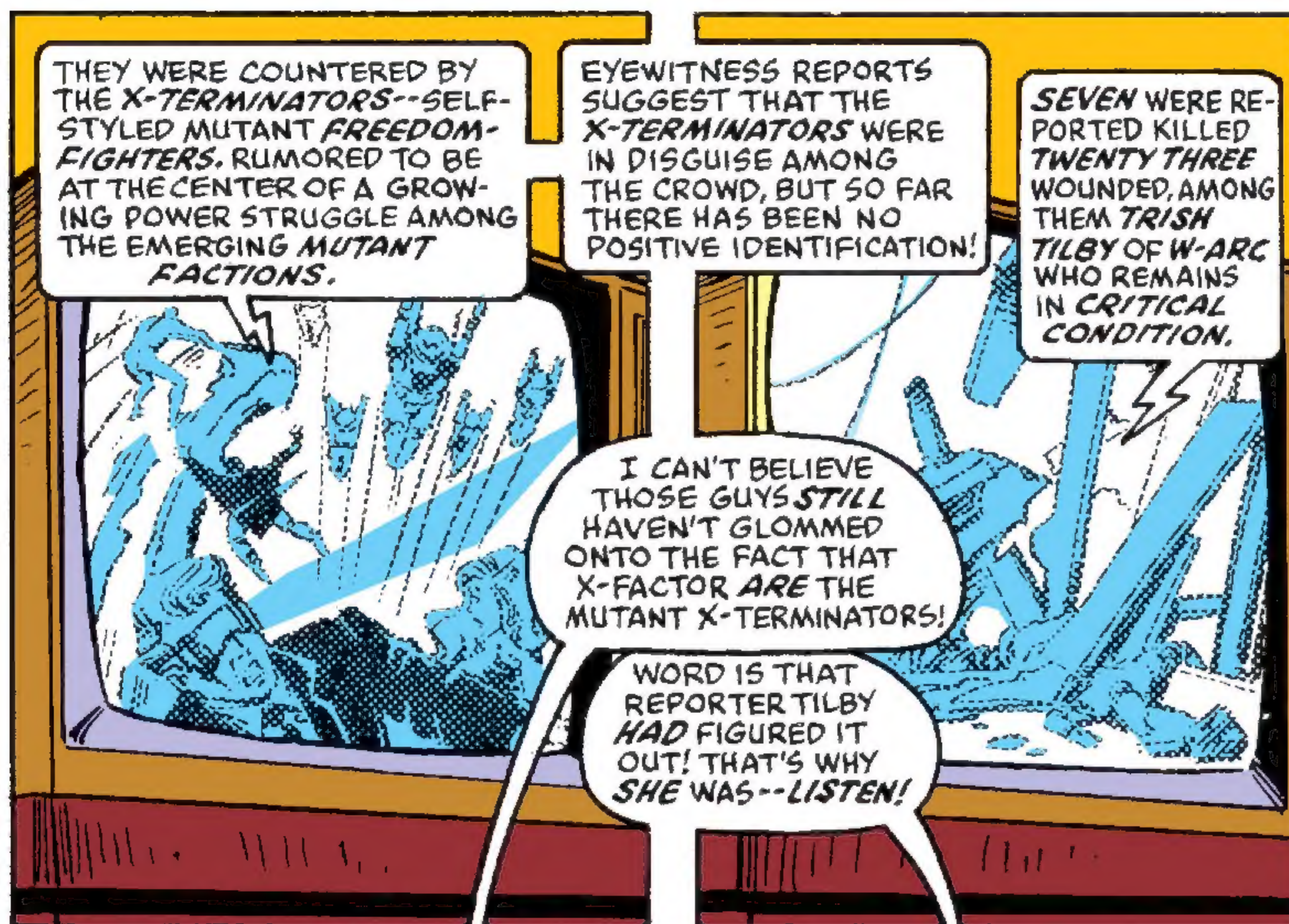
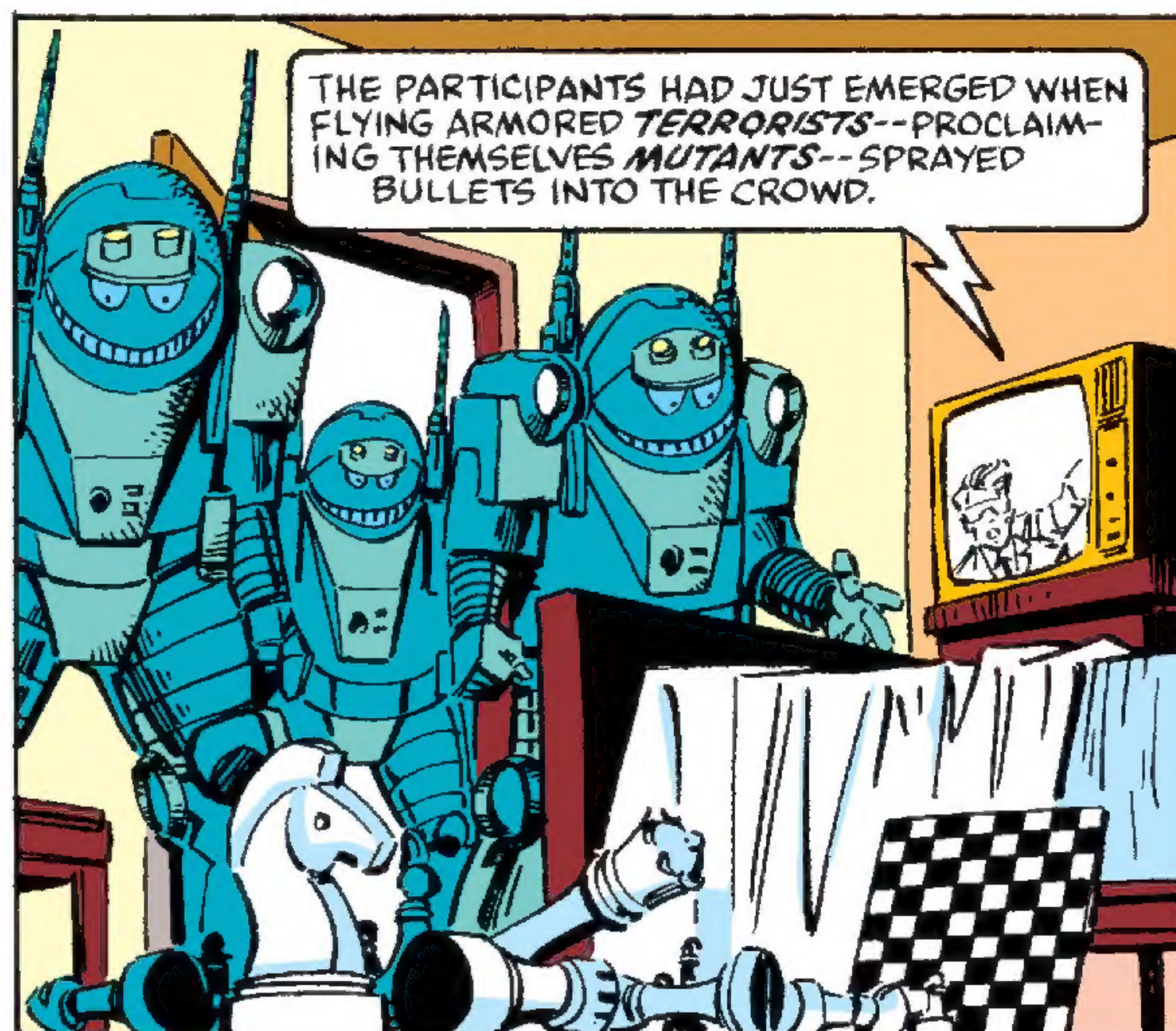
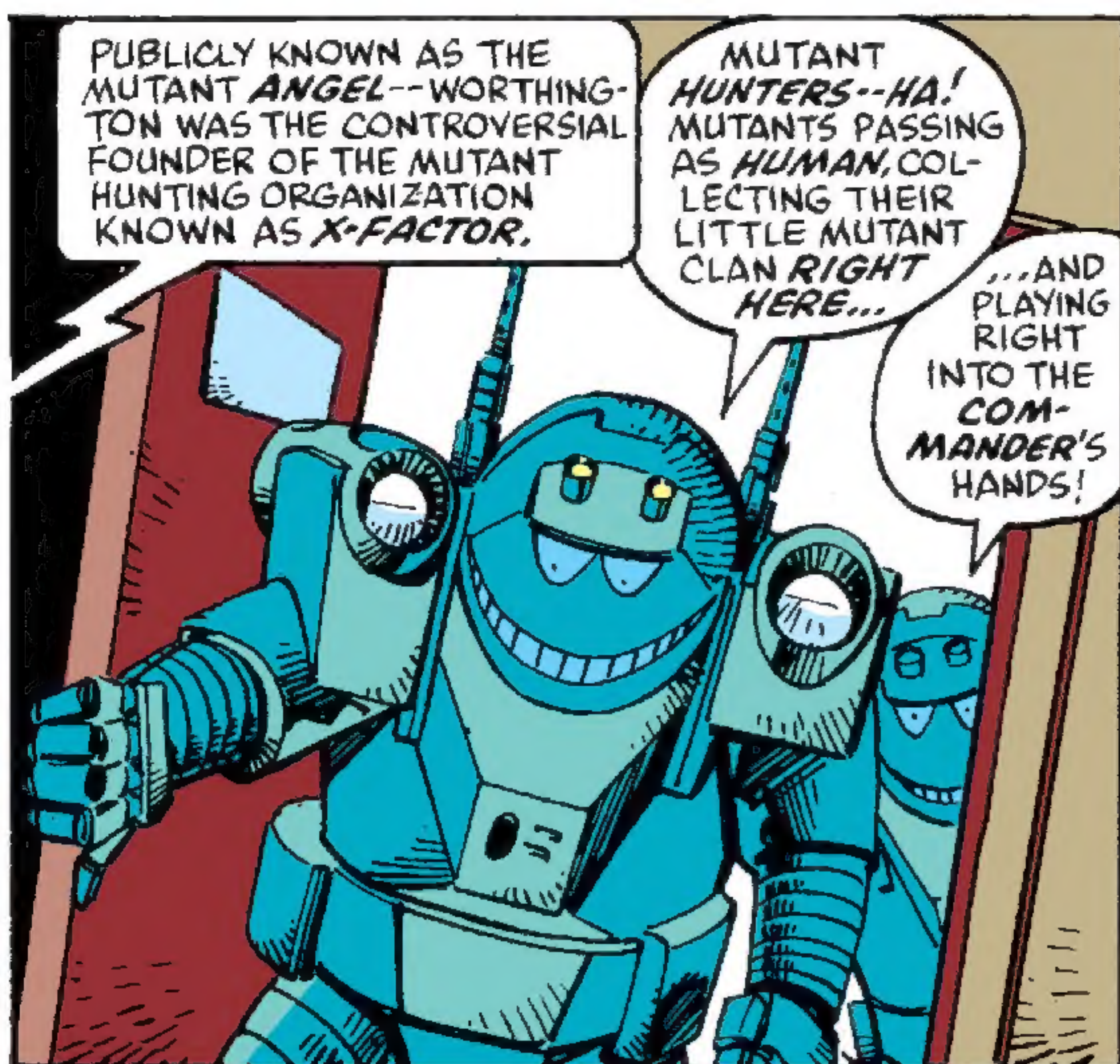
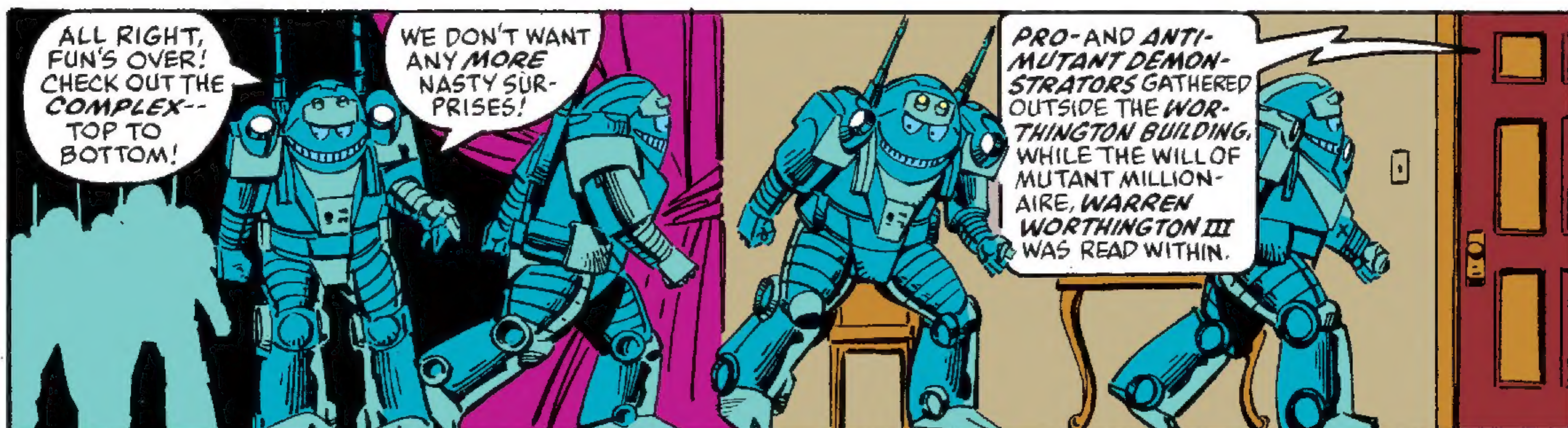








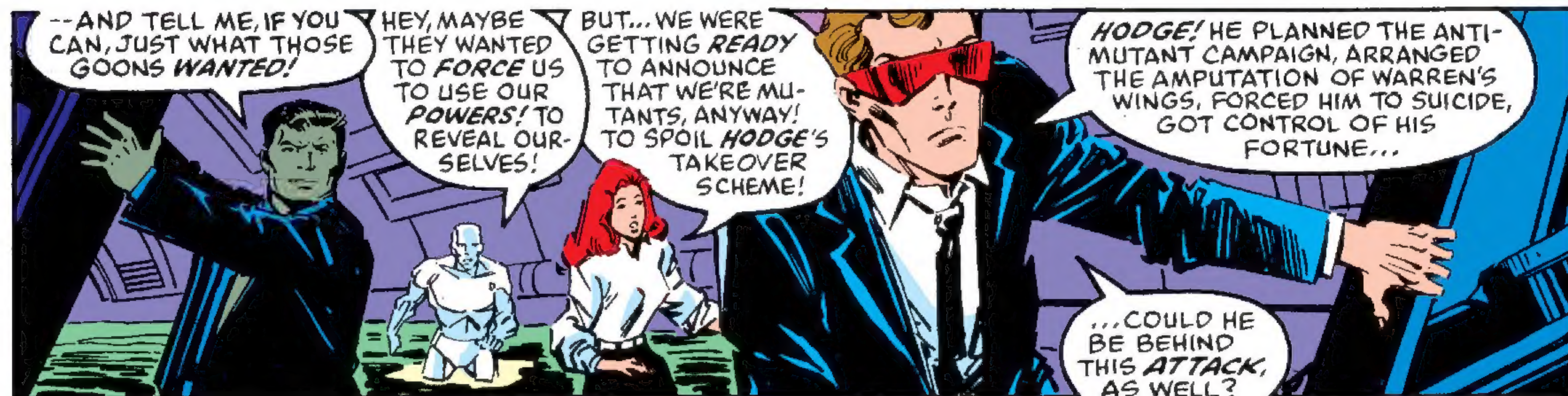
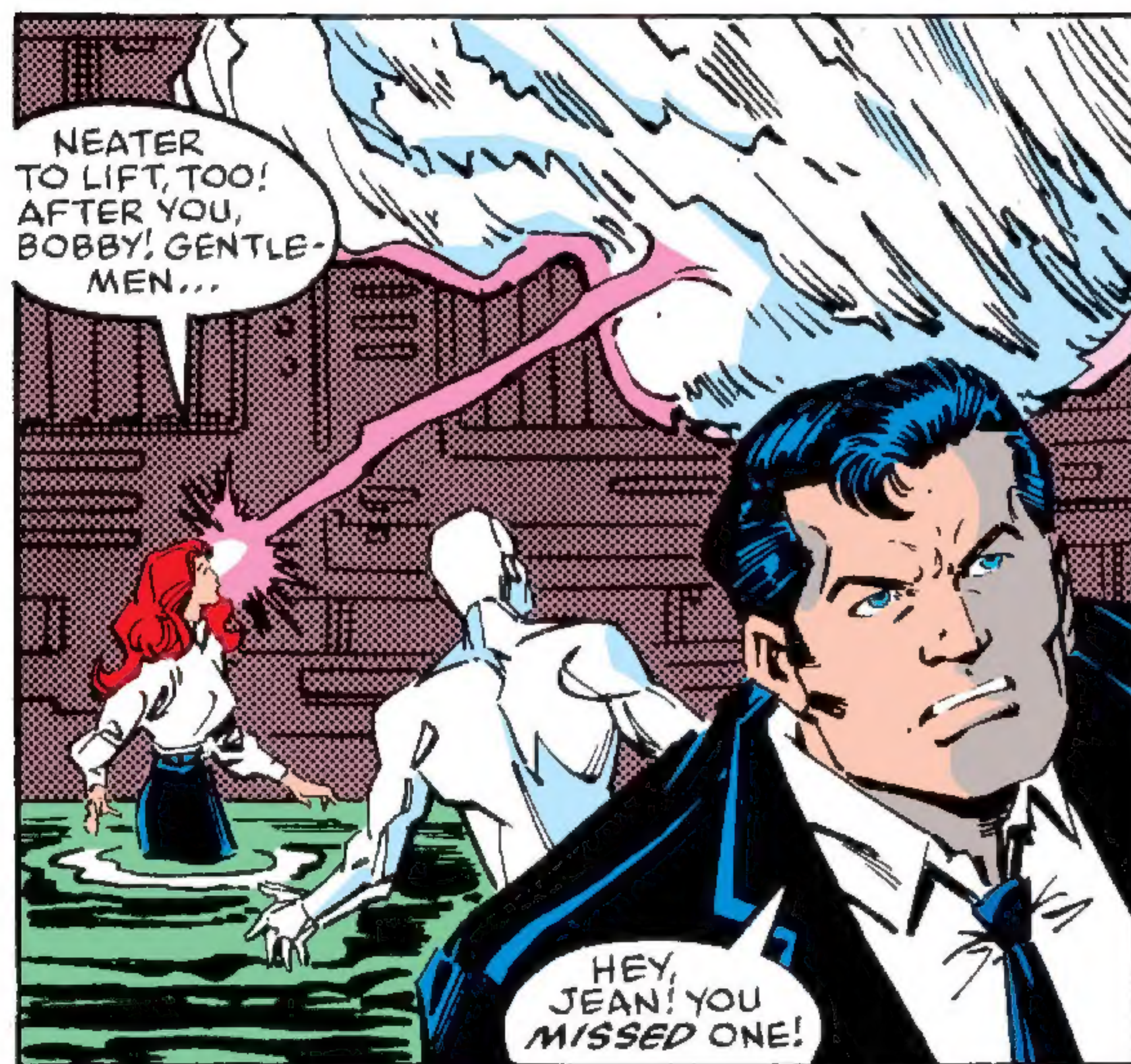
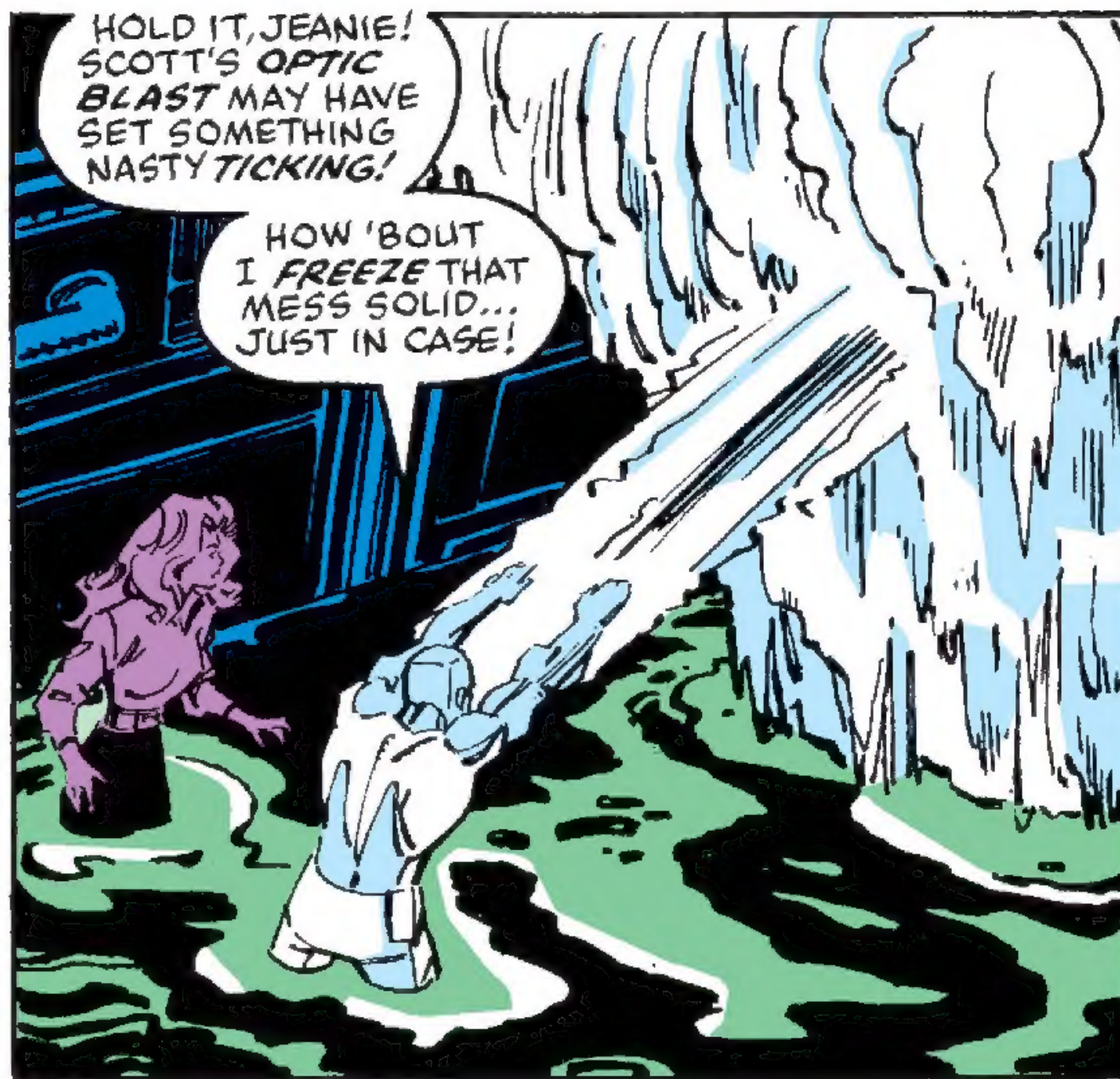




"...FORE THOSE *MUTANT SCUM* DECIDE TO COME *BACK* HERE! THEIR KIND GIVES ME THE *CREEPS*!"





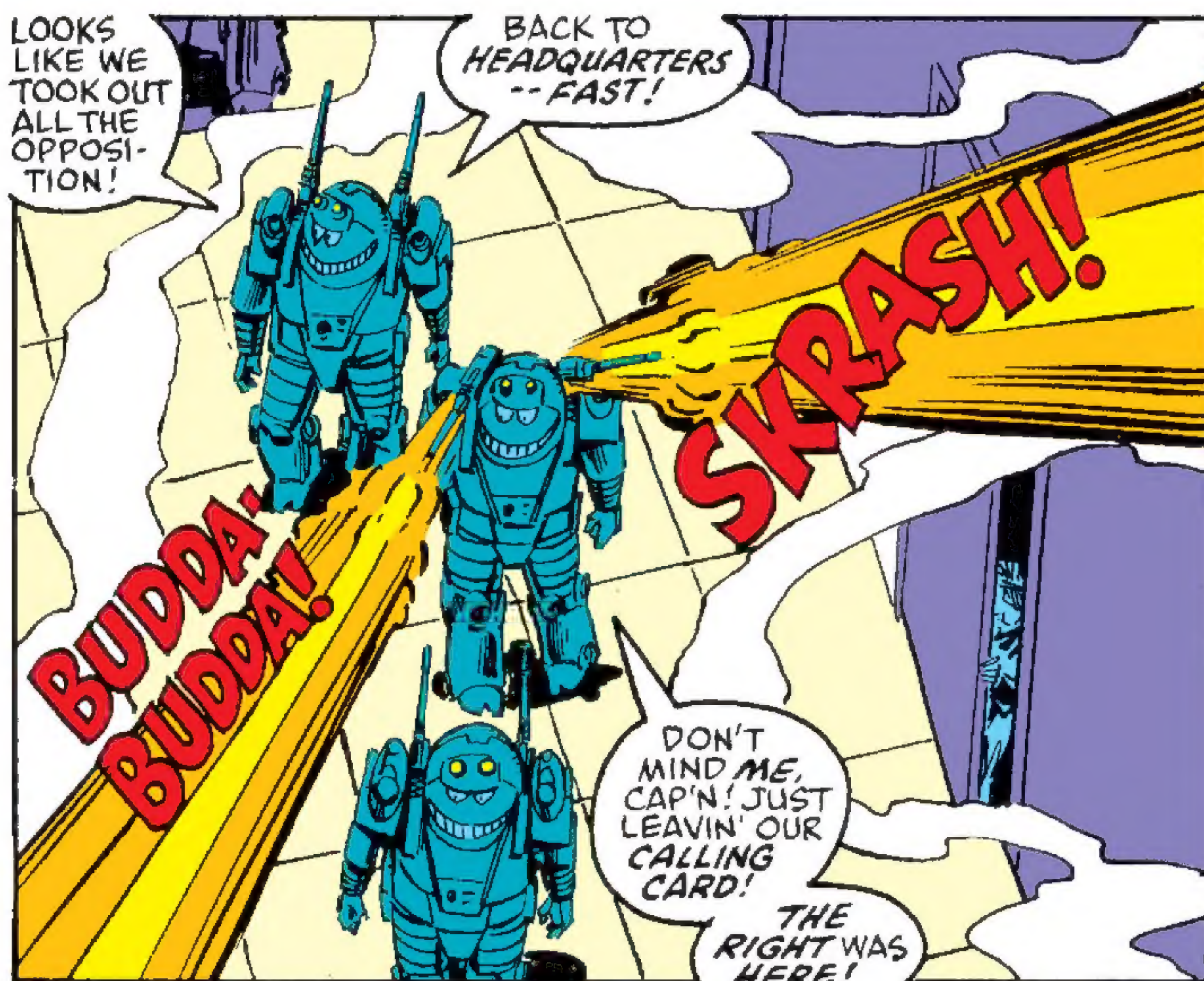
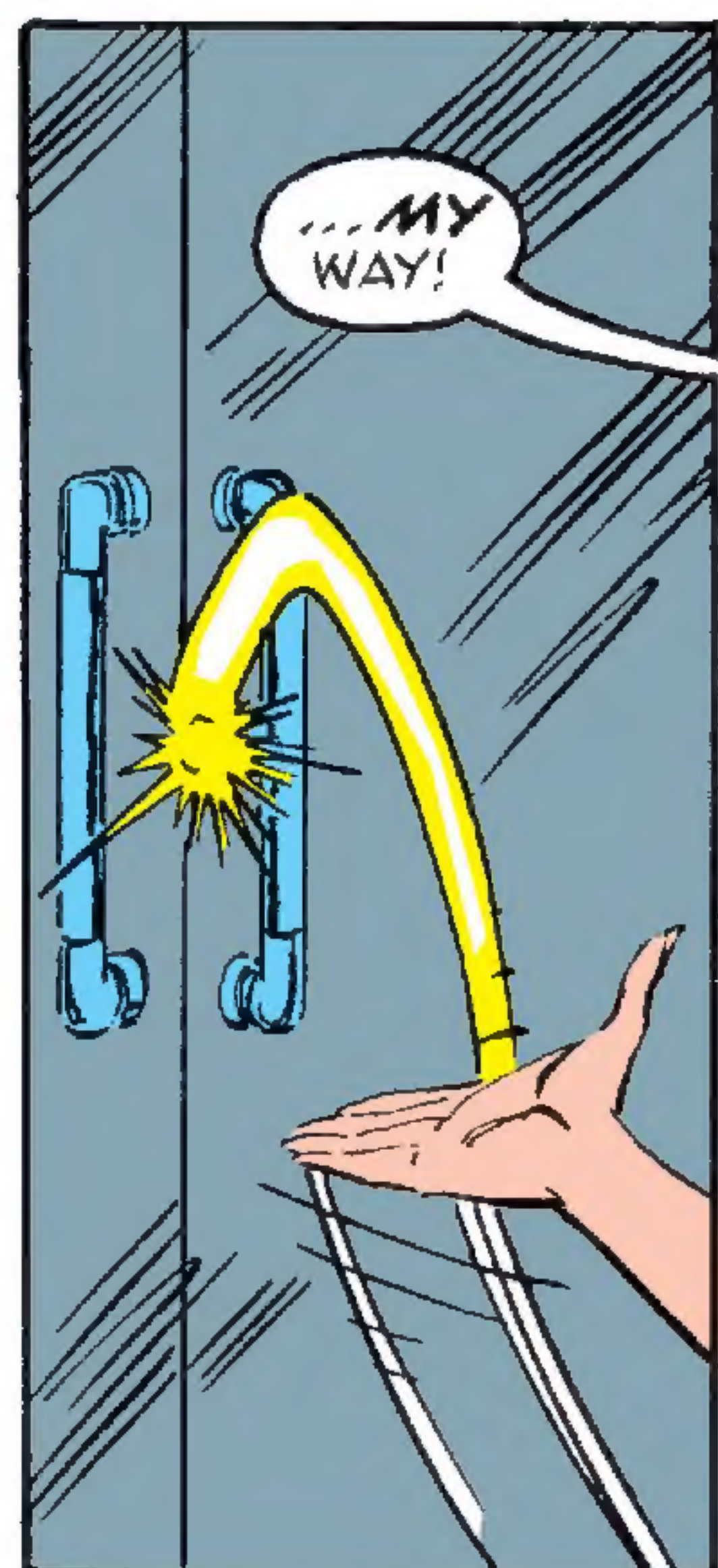




MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE THE X-FACTOR COMPLEX...



\*SEE X-FACTOR #17 AND **FALLEN ANGELS** #4-8. BOB



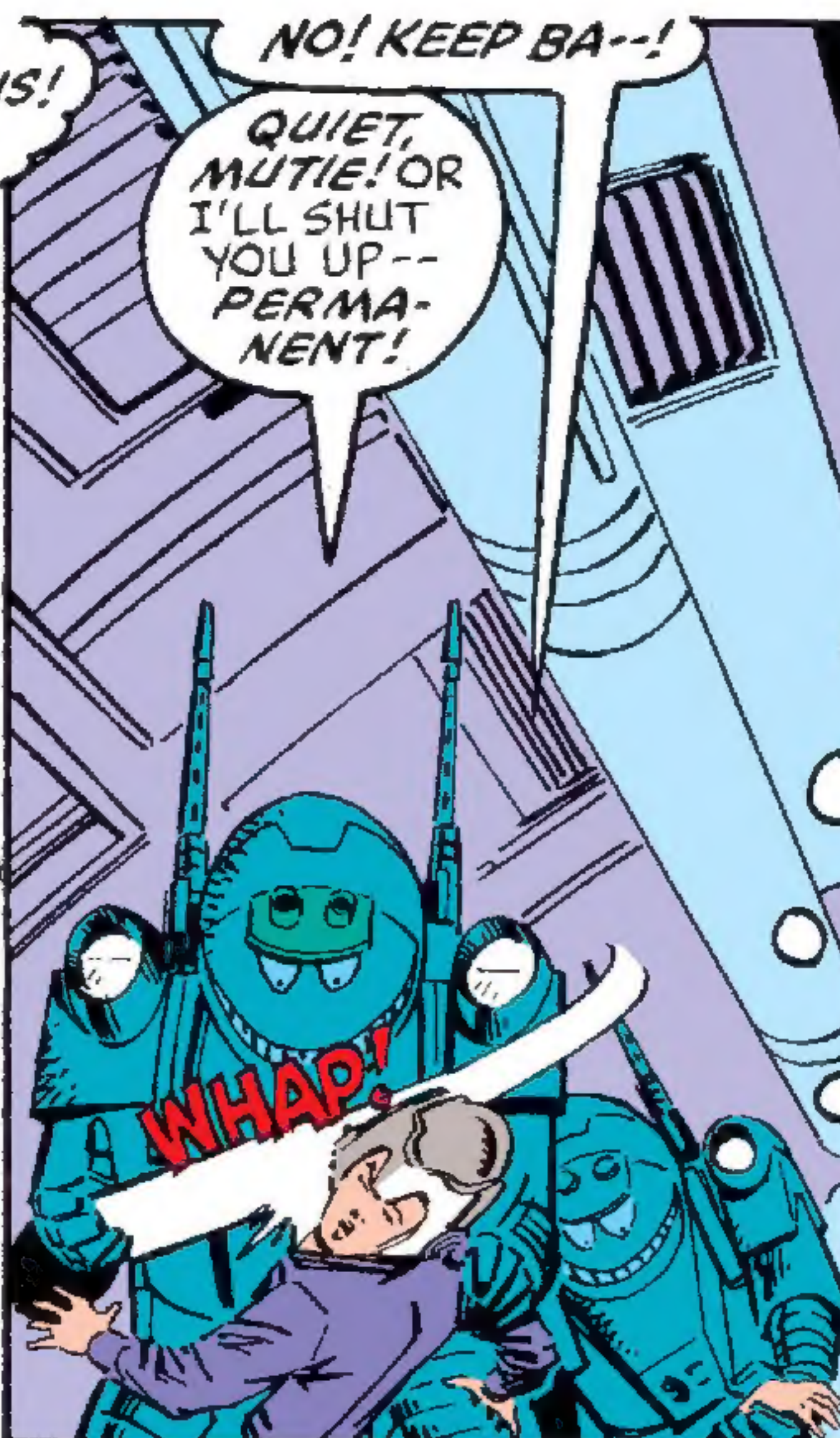




WHAT AM I *DOING*? I CAN'T FOLLOW 'EM! THEY GOT GUNS! THEY COULD SHOOT ME! BUT... WHO ARE THEY...?

BOOM-BOOM, KID, KEEP *RULE#1* AN' YOU'LL STAY ALIVE!

"DON'T BE A HERO!" FIND OUT WHAT'S UP, THEN RUN LIKE HECK FOR HELP!



NO! KEEP BA--!

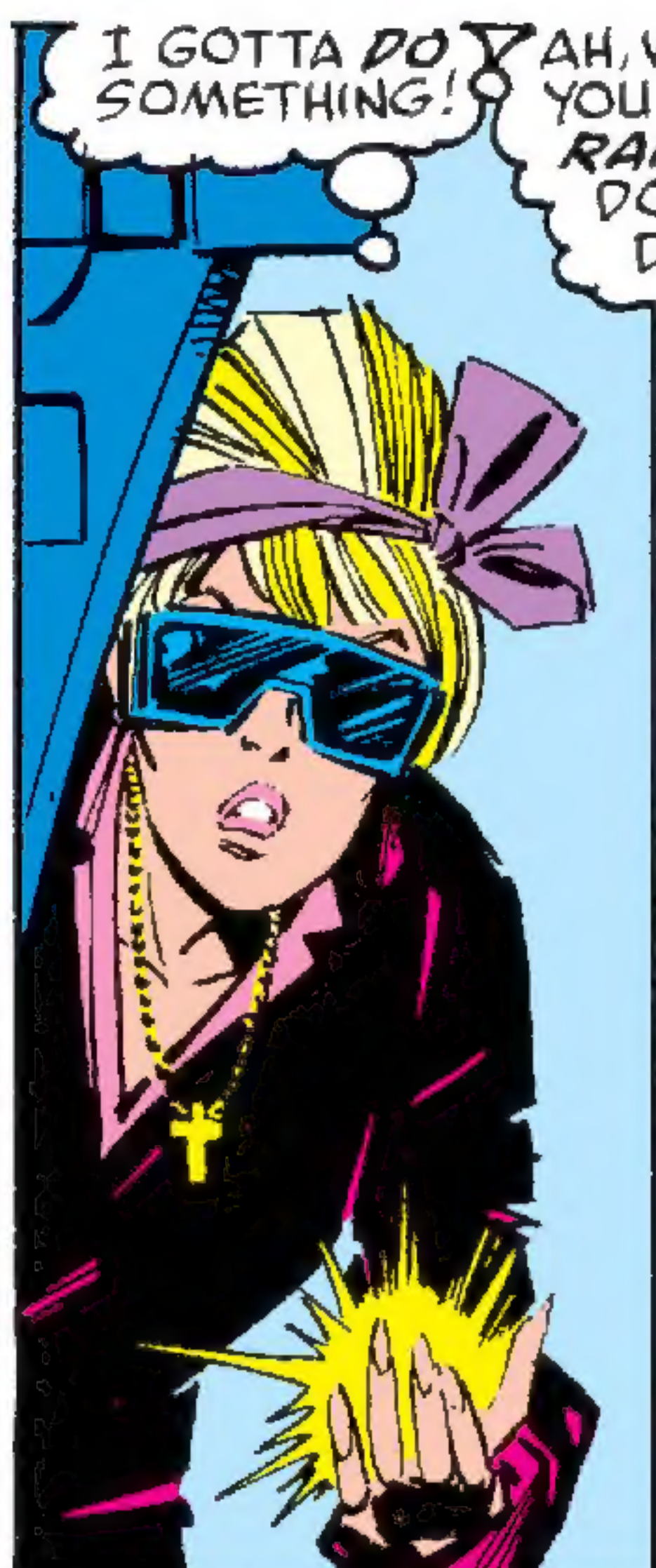
QUIET, MUTIE! OR I'LL SHUT YOU UP-- PERMA-NENT!

WHAP!



OMIGOSH! WHO'S THAT KID? MUST BE SOMEBODY X-FACTOR PICKED UP AFTER I RAN OFF!

THEY GOT THE OTHERS! THEY GOT MY FRIENDS! THEY'RE GONNA CARRY 'EM OFF!



I GOTTA *DO* SOMETHING!

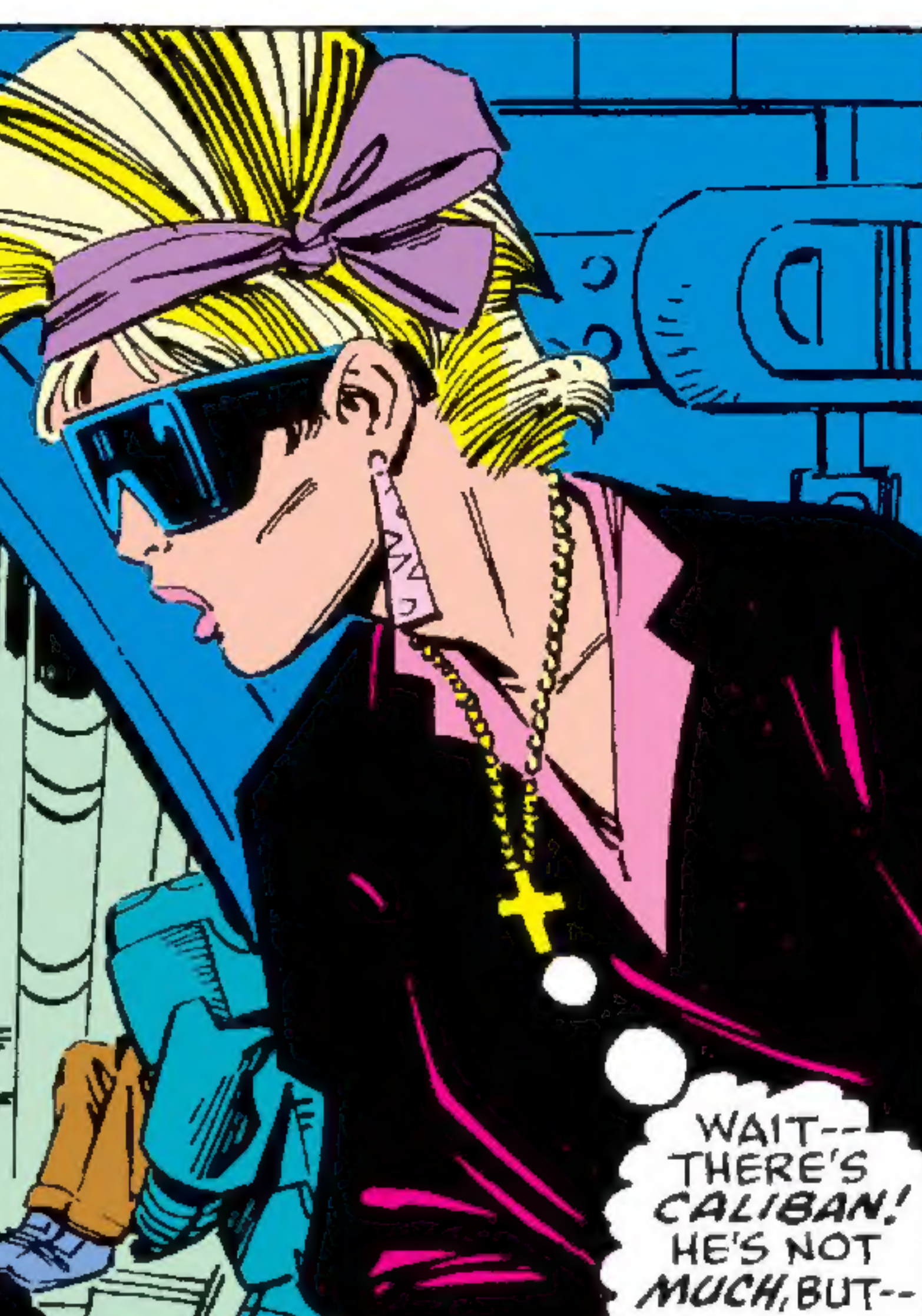


AH, WHO'RE YOU KIDDIN', BOOM-BOOM? YOU HAVEN'T GOT FRIENDS! YOU RAN AWAY, REMEMBER? THEY DON'T OWE YOU AN' YOU DON'T OWE THEM!



AN' ANYWAY, THERE'S TOO MANY!

WHERE THE HECK IS X-FACTOR? THEY'RE THE HEROES!



WAIT-- THERE'S CALIBAN! HE'S NOT MUCH, BUT--



CALIBAN! CALIBAN! WAKE UP! THEY'VE TAKEN--



OH, YUCK!

YOU CAN'T HELP ME, CAN YOU?

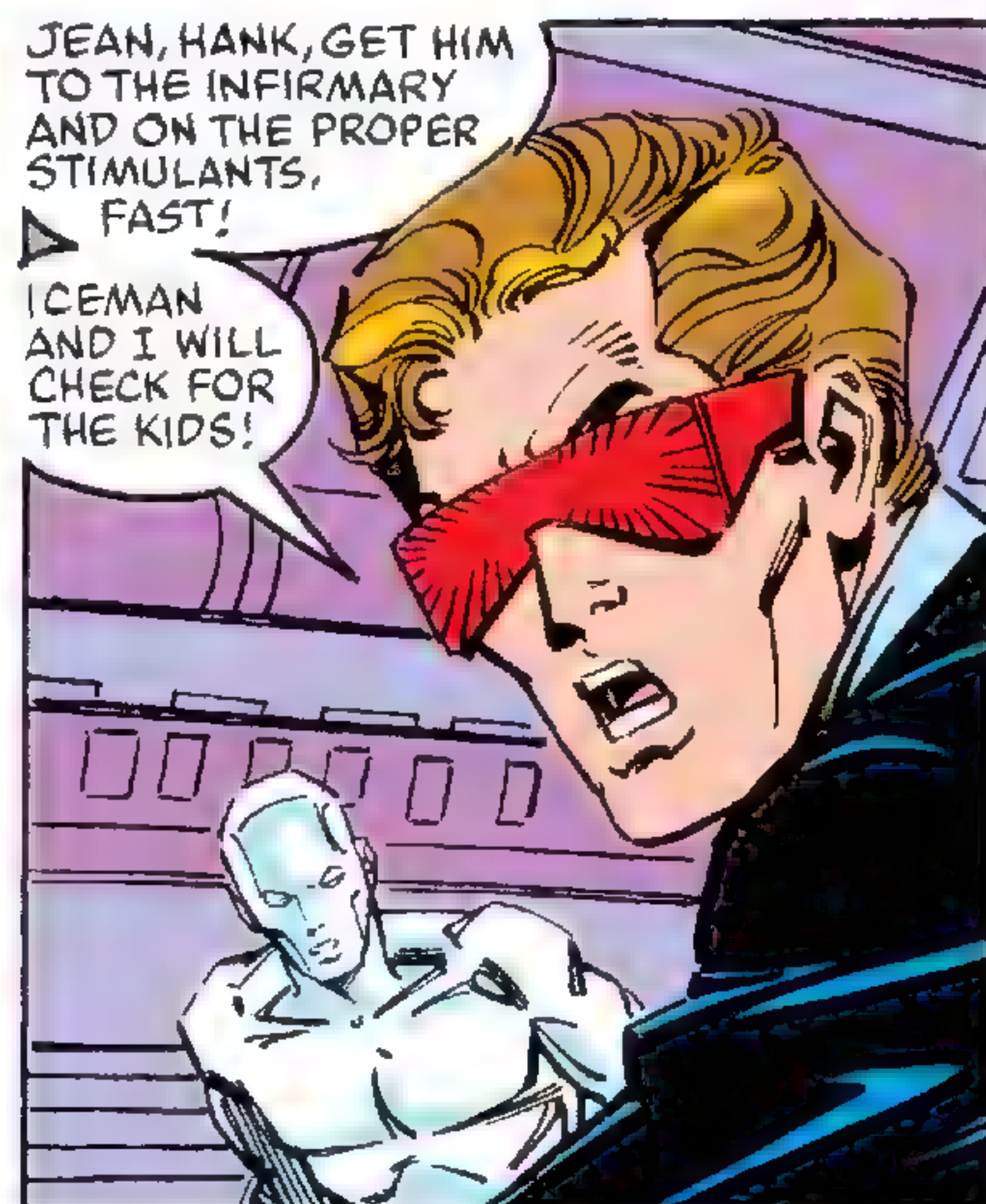
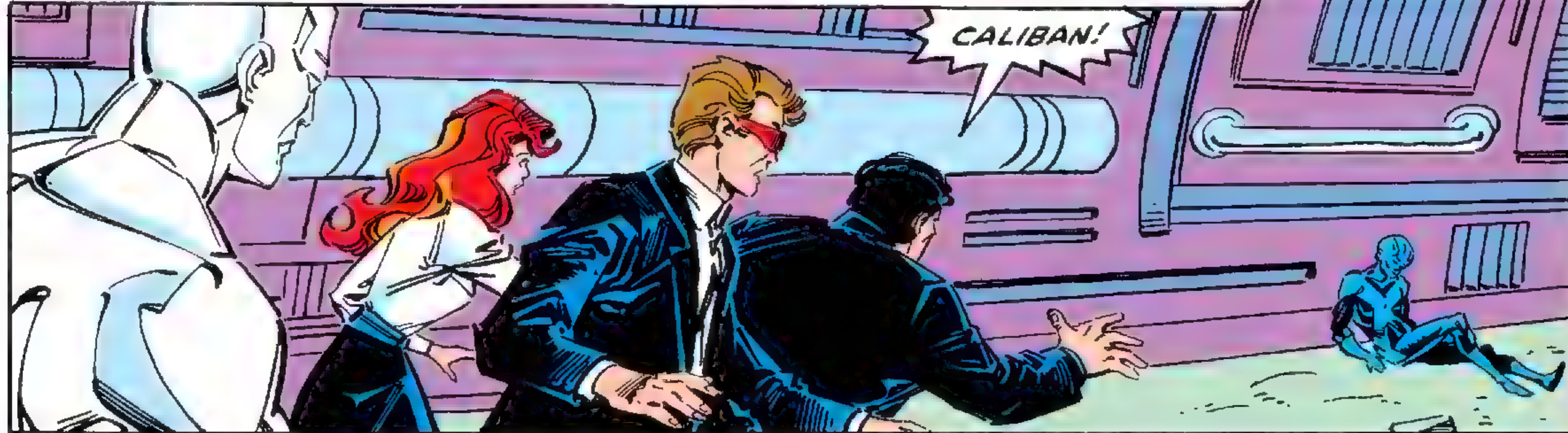


AWRIGHT, I'LL FIND OUT WHERE THEY'RE TAKIN' THEM-- BUT THAT'S AS FAR AS I GO!

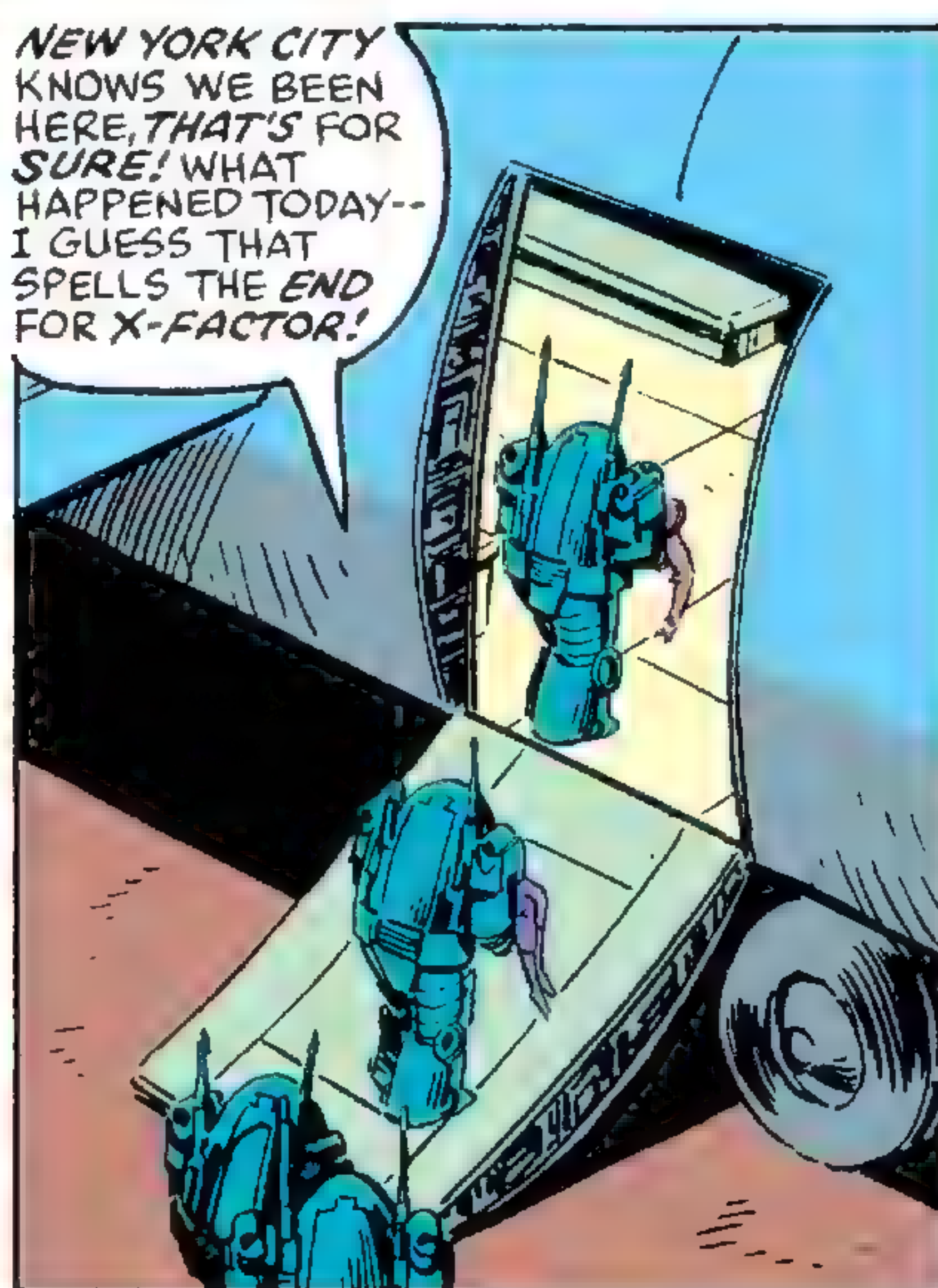
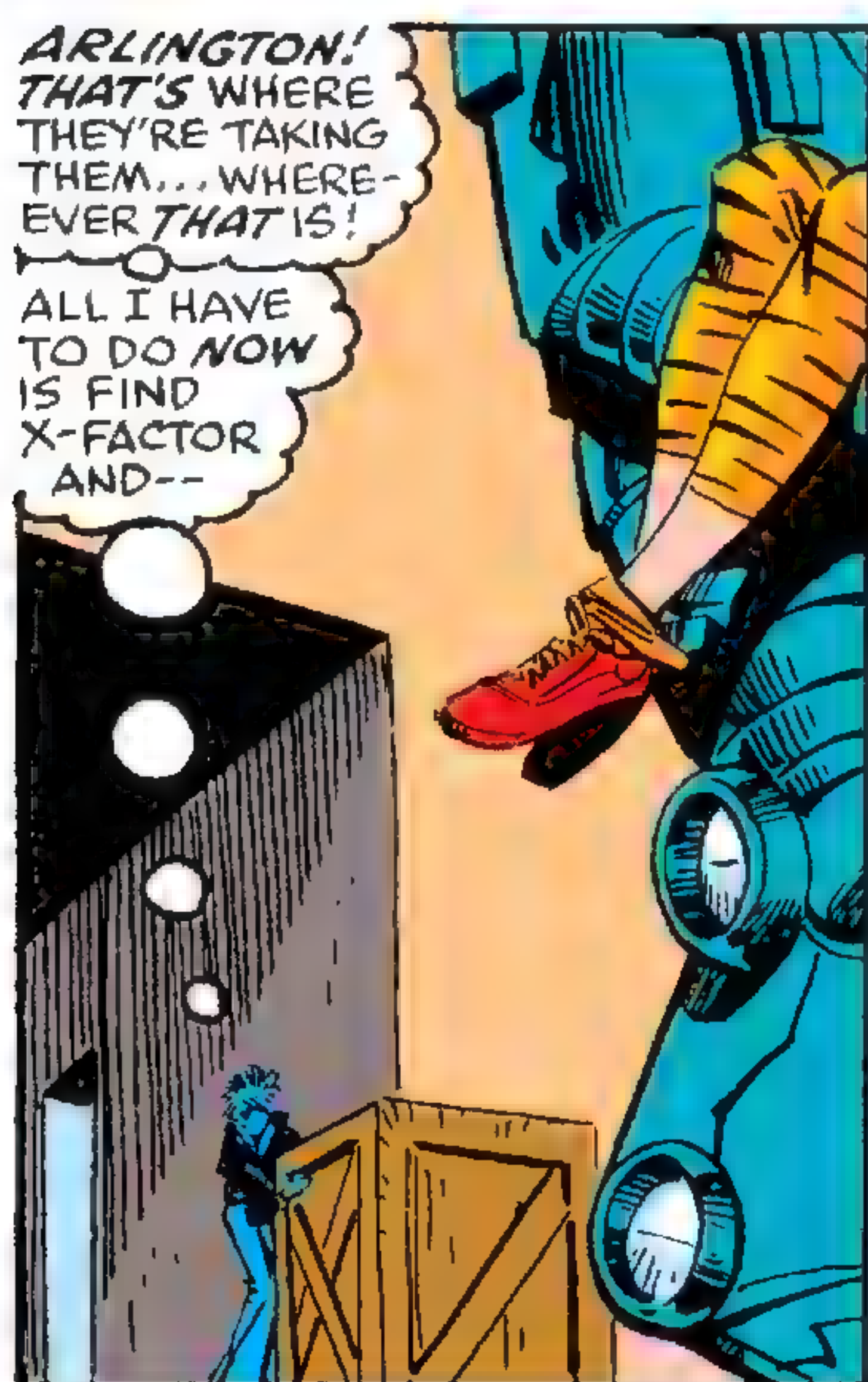
THEN I'LL FIND X-FACTOR--OR SOMEBODY-- AND MAKE THEM HELP!



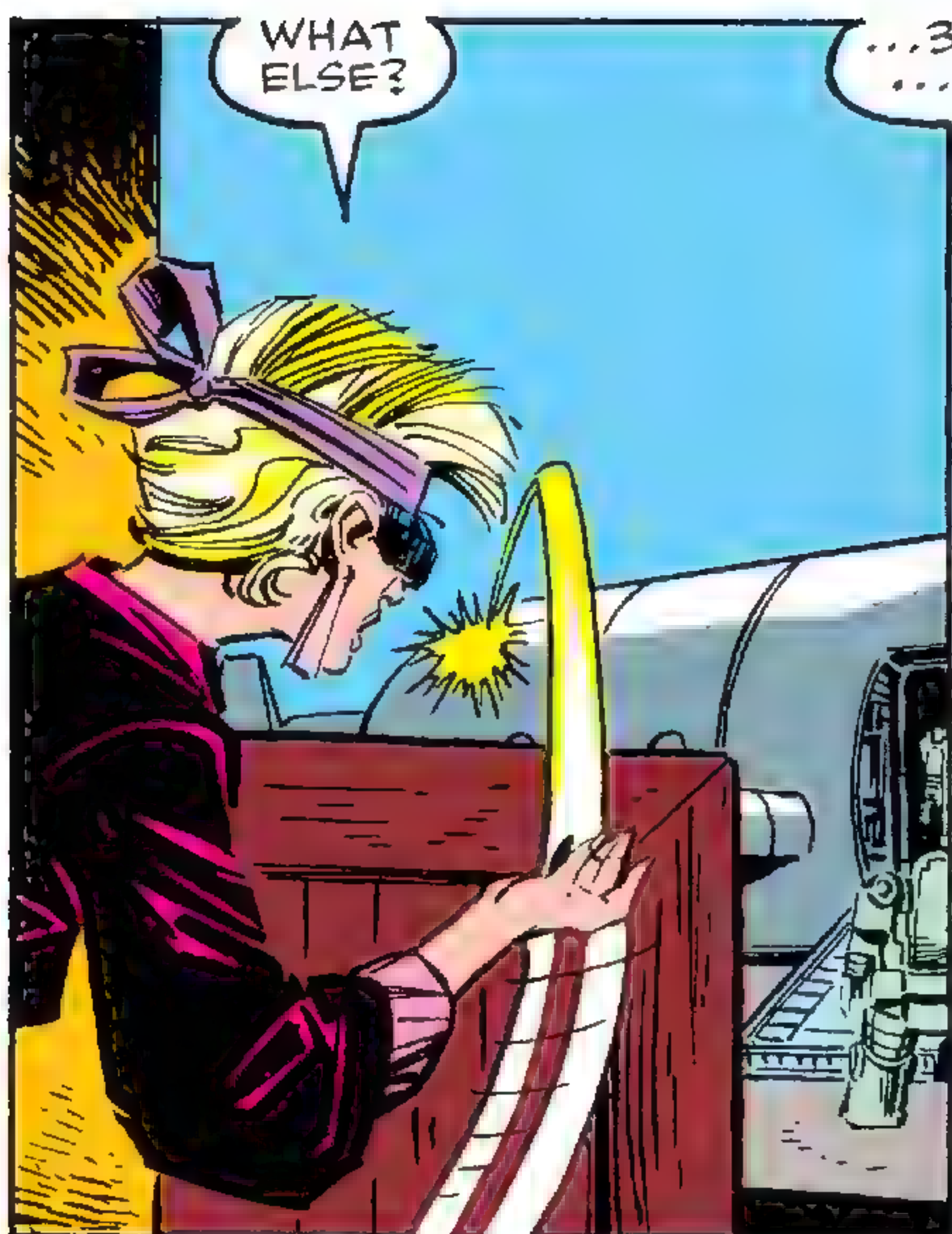
NEARLY HALF AN HOUR LATER, X-FACTOR EMERGES FROM THE TUNNEL ENTRANCE TO FIND...



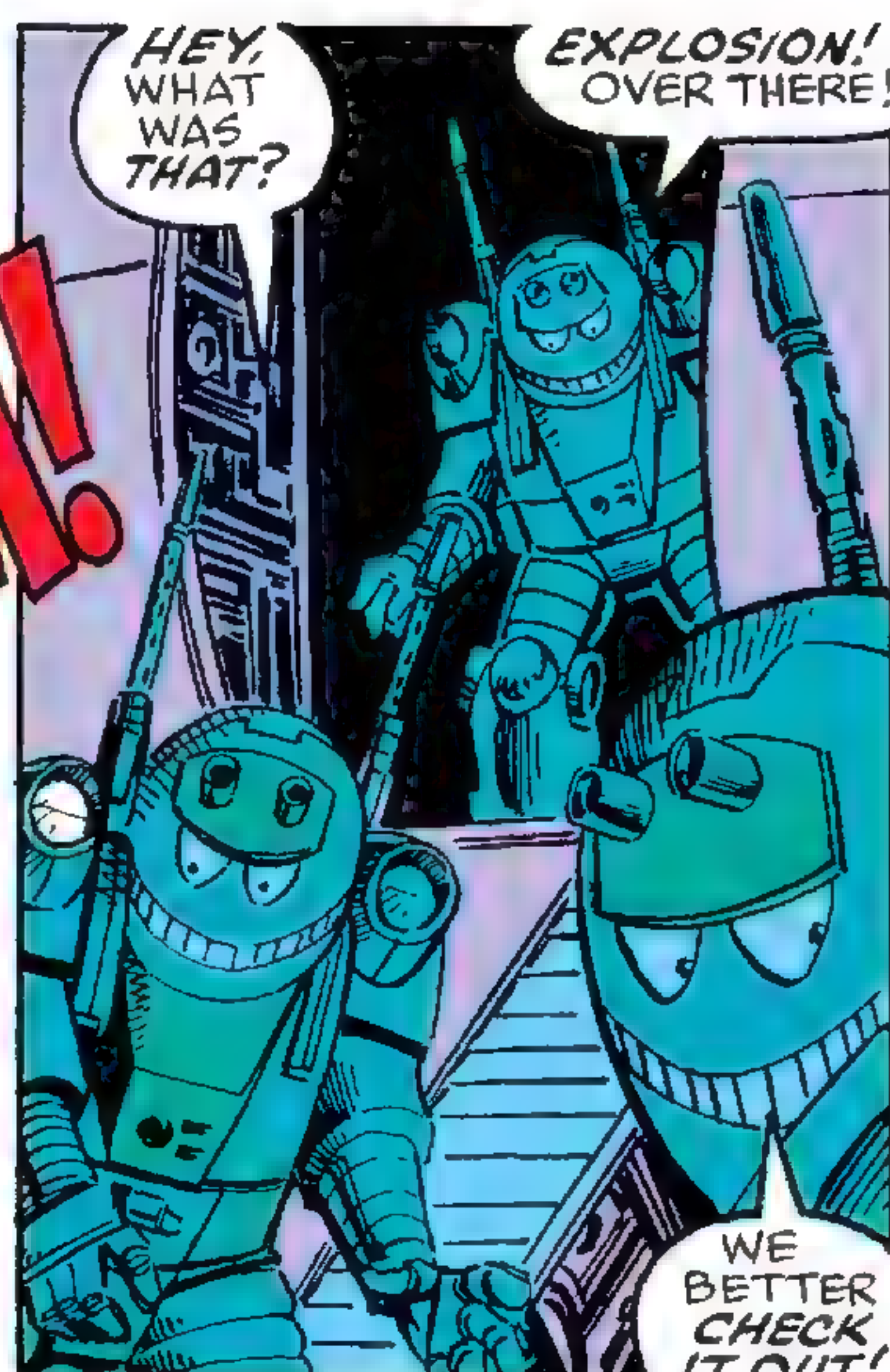
WHILE ALMOST A MILE AWAY, ON A PRIVATE HELI-PAD ABUTTING MANHATTAN'S EAST RIVER...



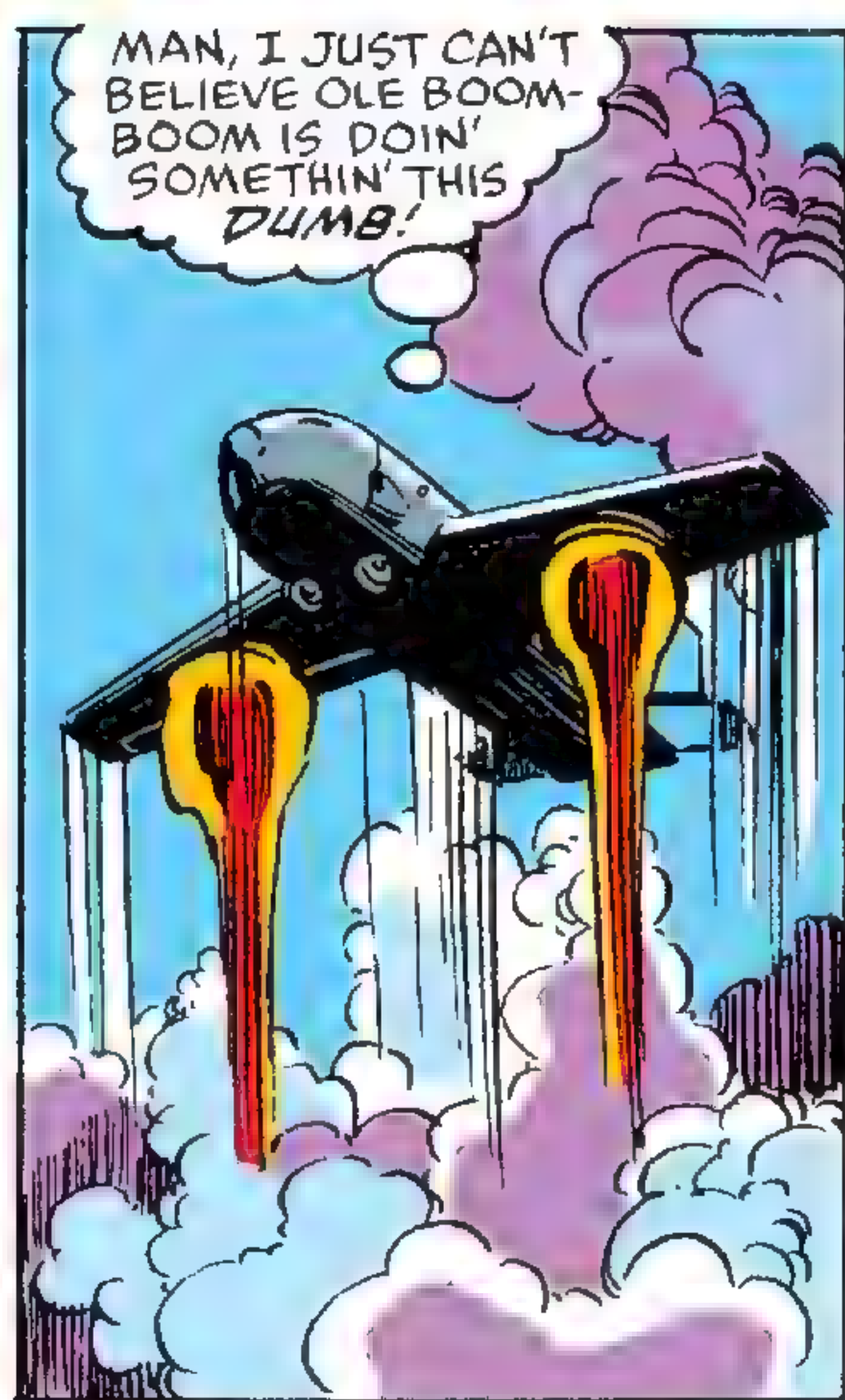
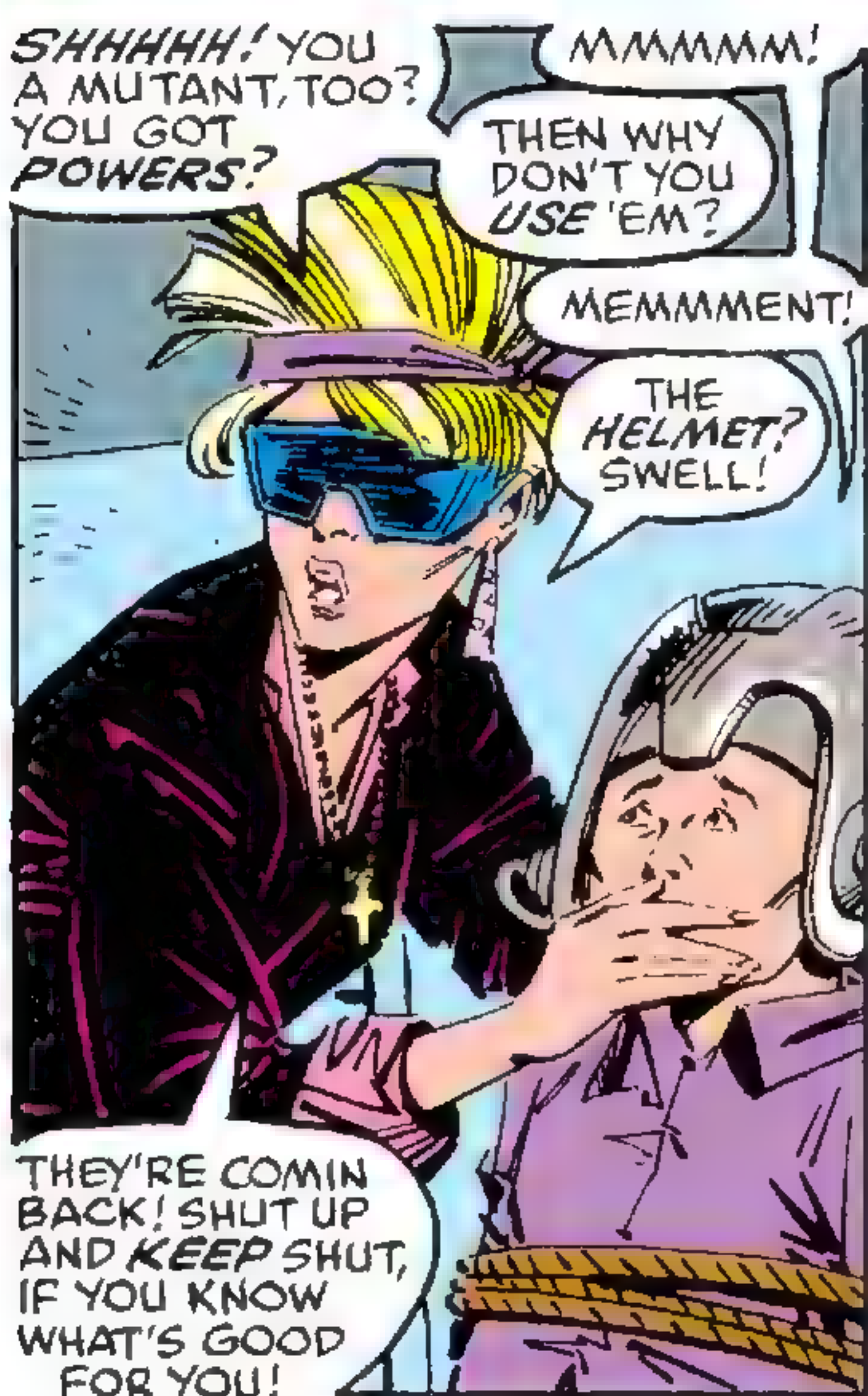
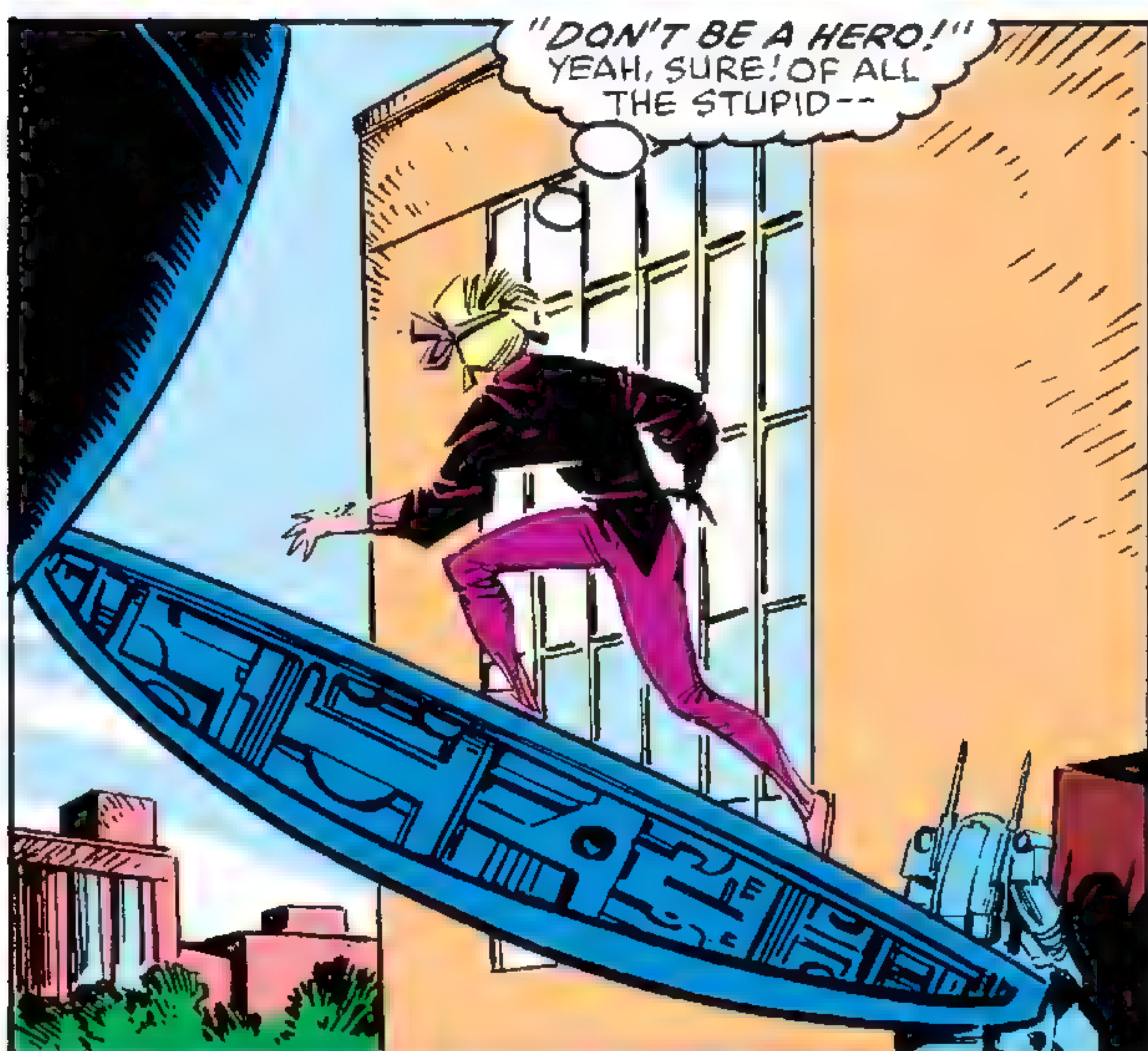




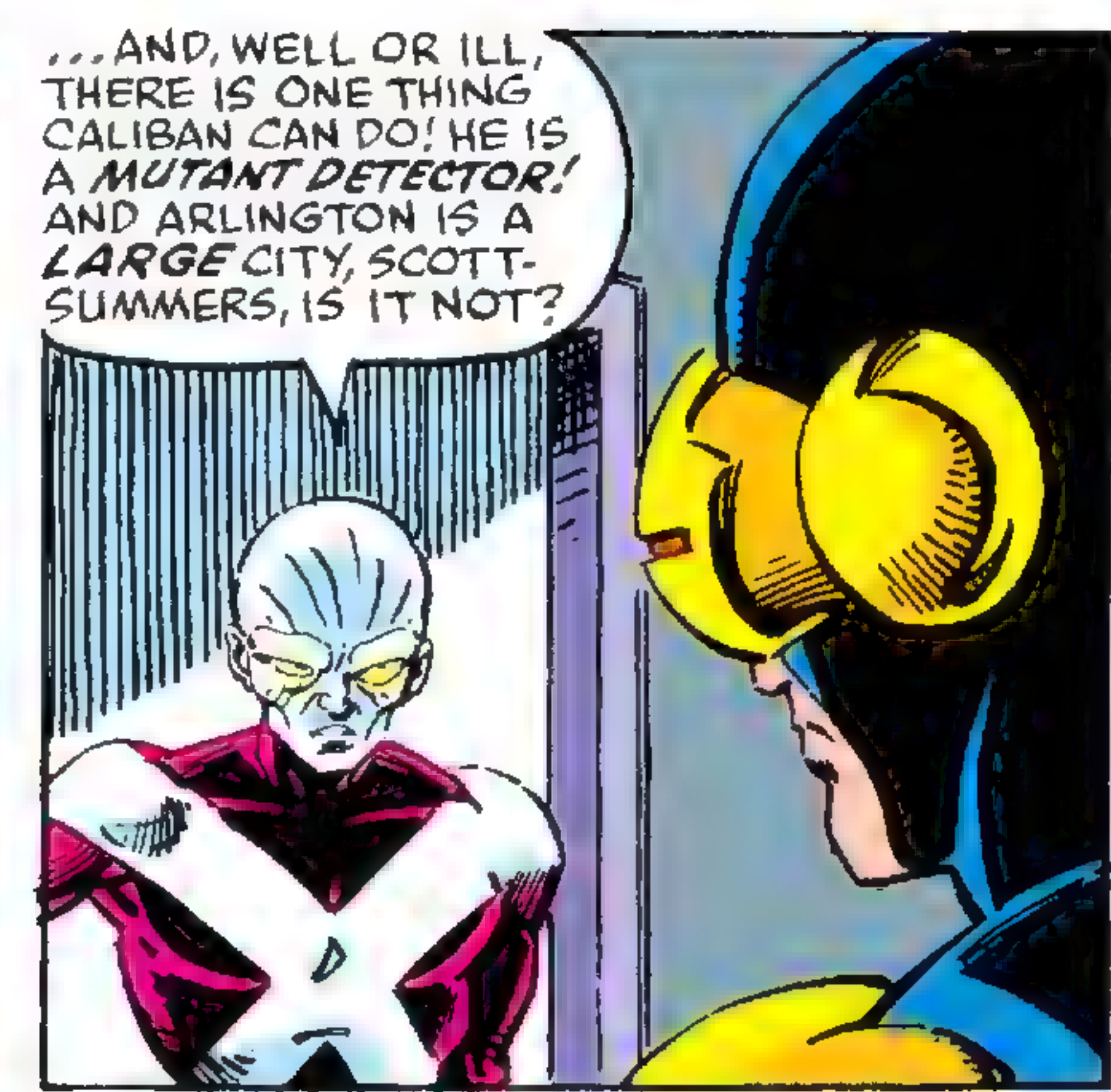
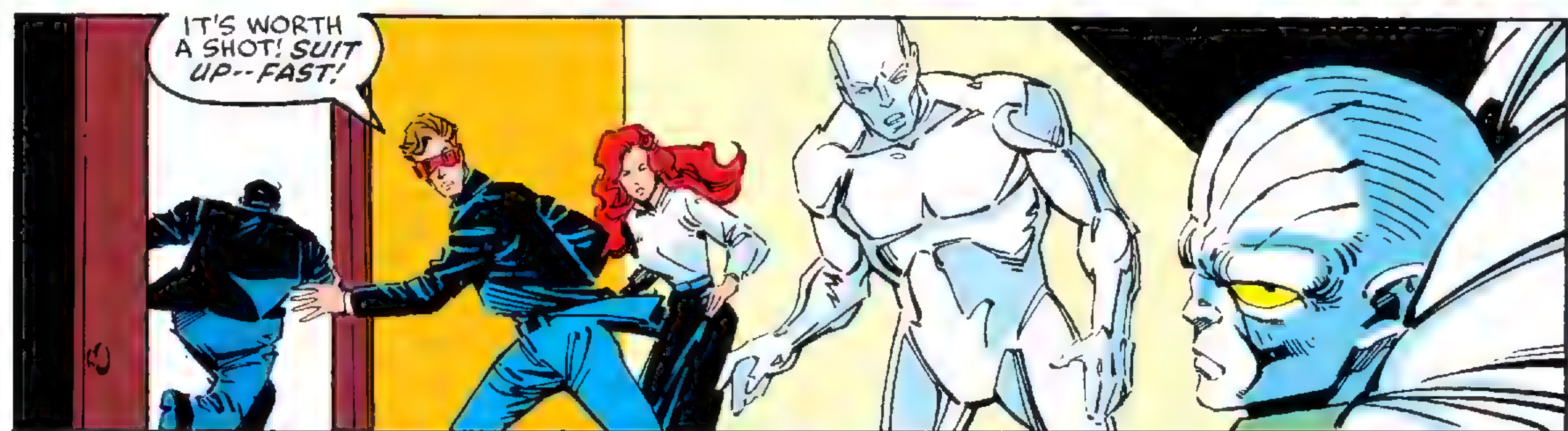
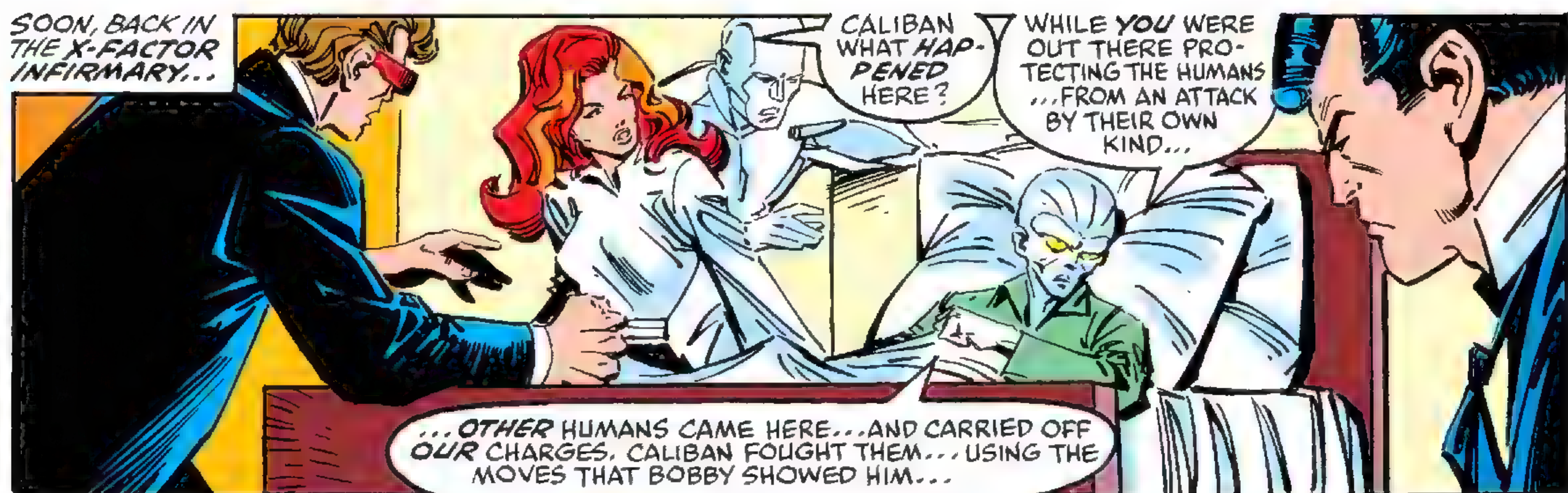
...3... 2  
...1!



WE BETTER CHECK IT OUT!

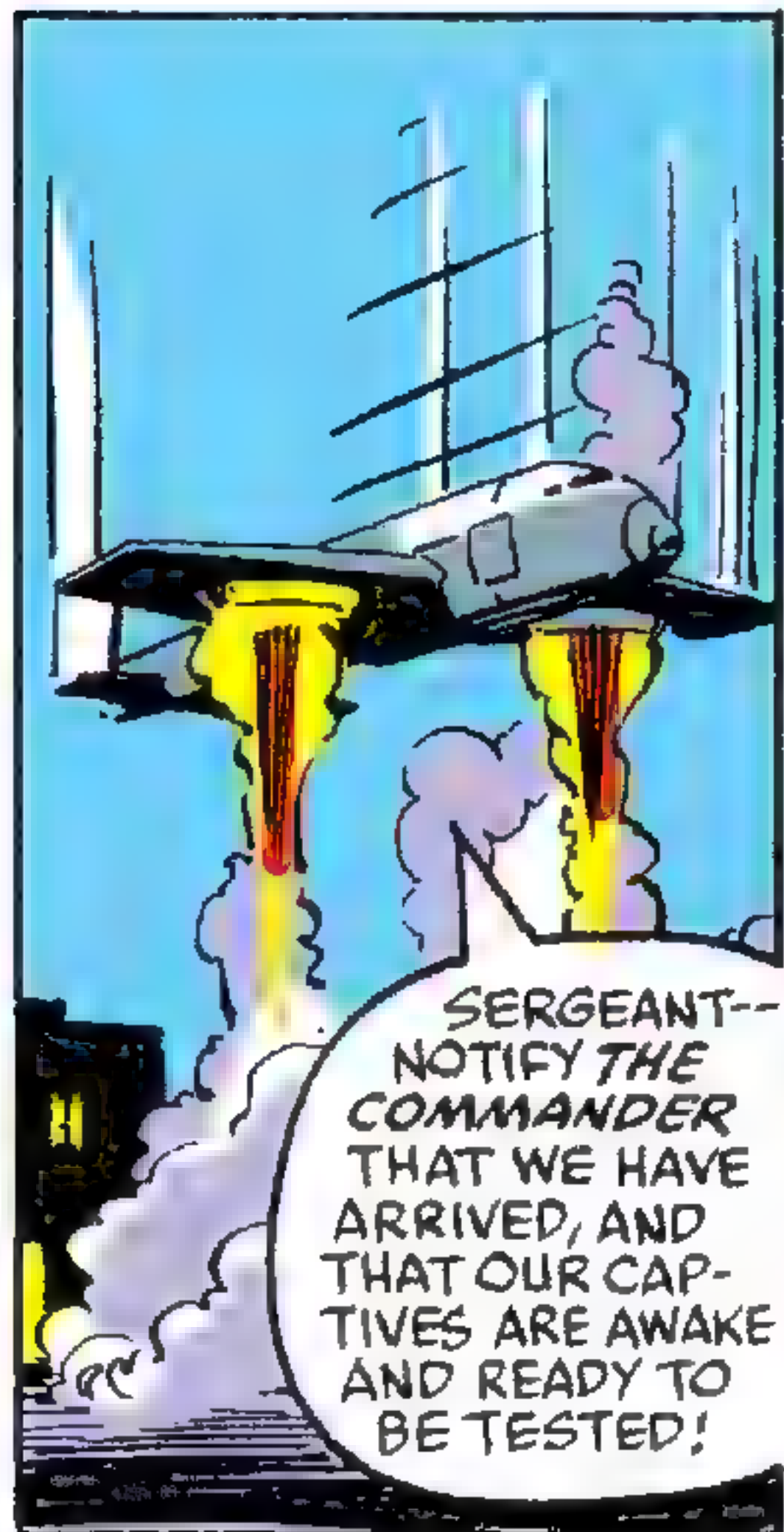




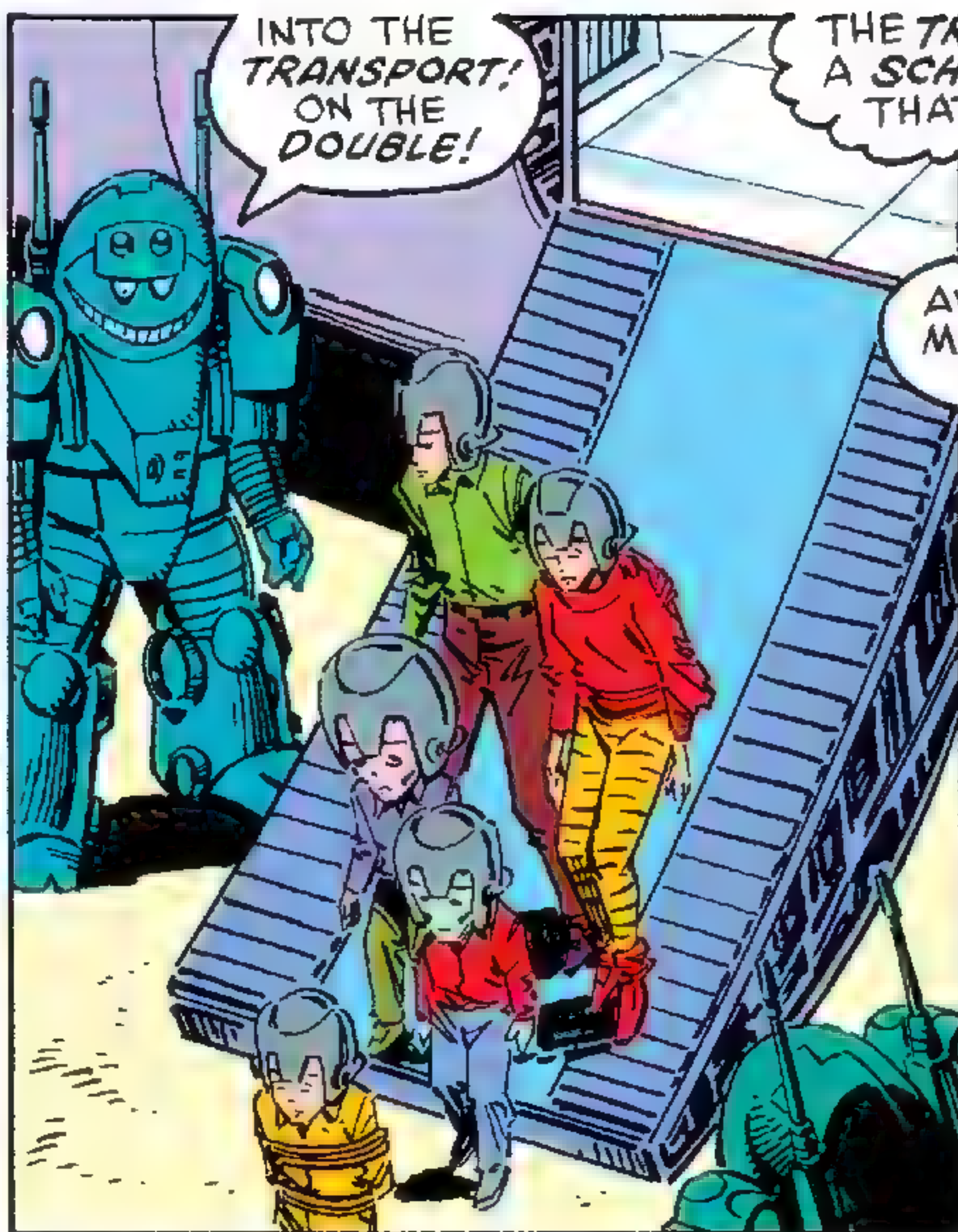




"WITHOUT CALIBAN'S HELP,  
HOW WILL YOU EVER FIND  
THEM...?"



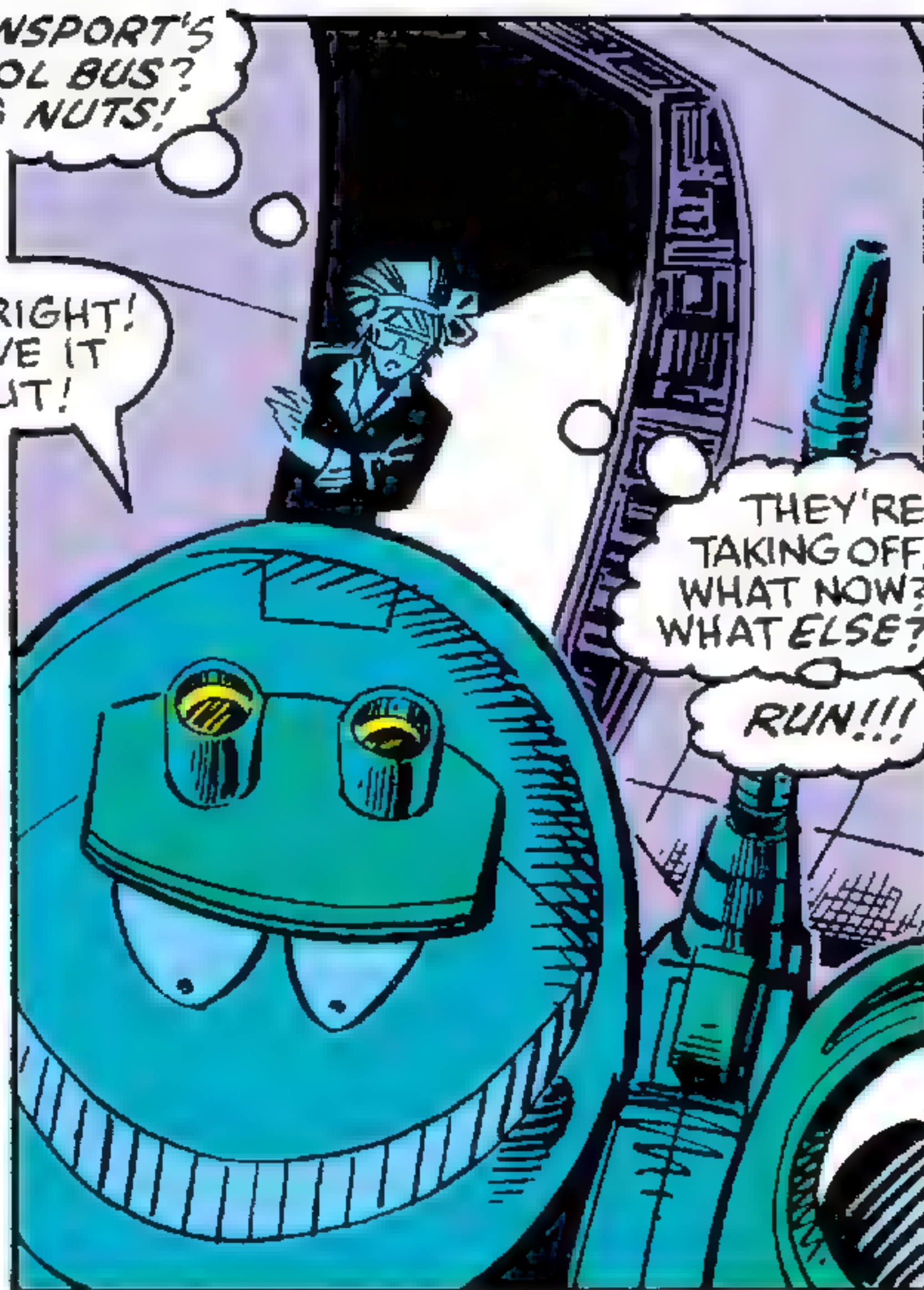
SERGEANT--  
NOTIFY THE  
COMMANDER  
THAT WE HAVE  
ARRIVED, AND  
THAT OUR CAP-  
TIVES ARE AWAKE  
AND READY TO  
BE TESTED!



INTO THE  
TRANSPORT!  
ON THE  
DOUBLE!

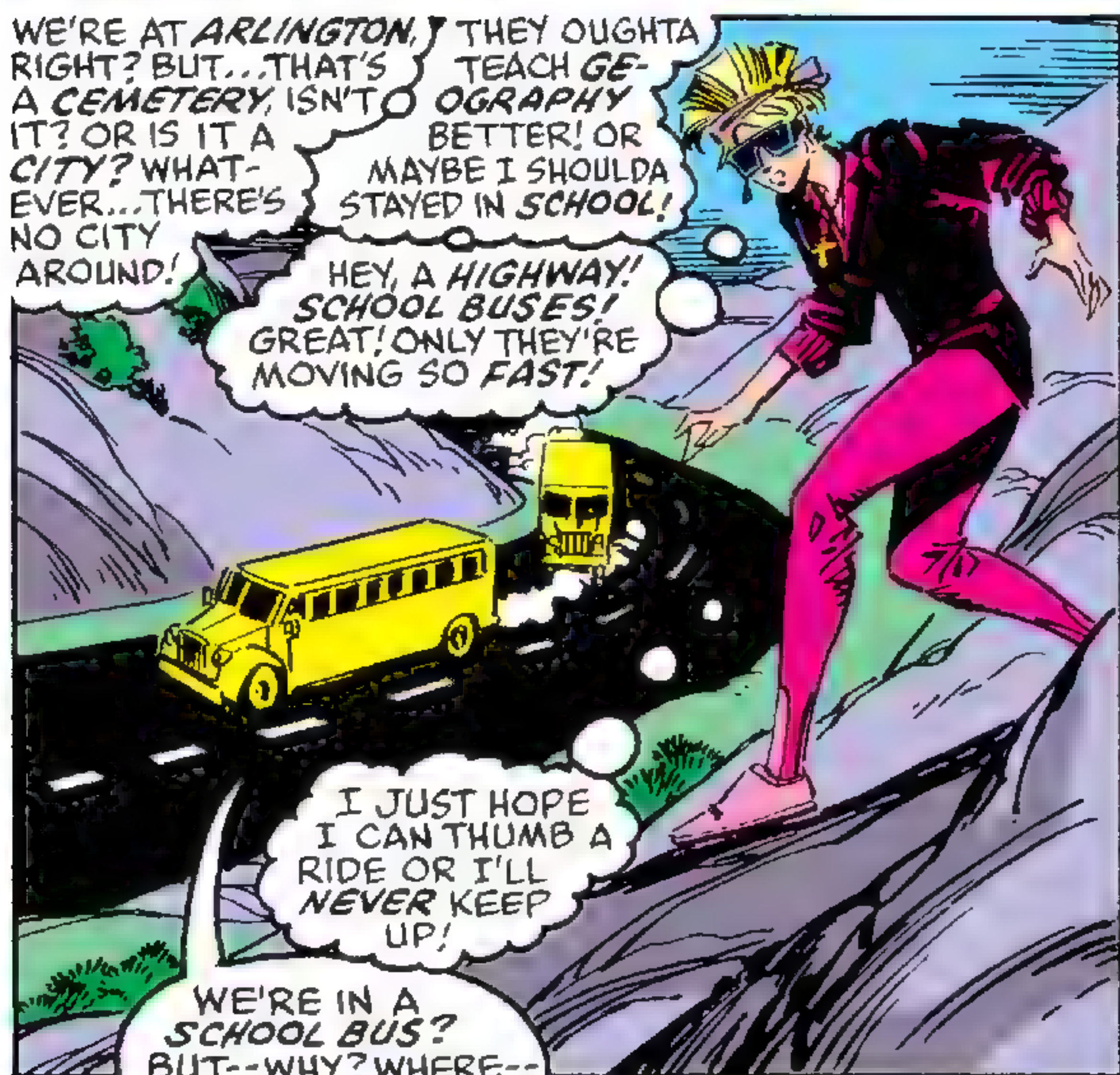
THE TRANSPORT'S  
A SCHOOL BUS?  
THAT'S NUTS!

AWRIGHT!  
MOVE IT  
OUT!



THEY'RE  
TAKING OFF!  
WHAT NOW?  
WHAT ELSE?

RUN!!!

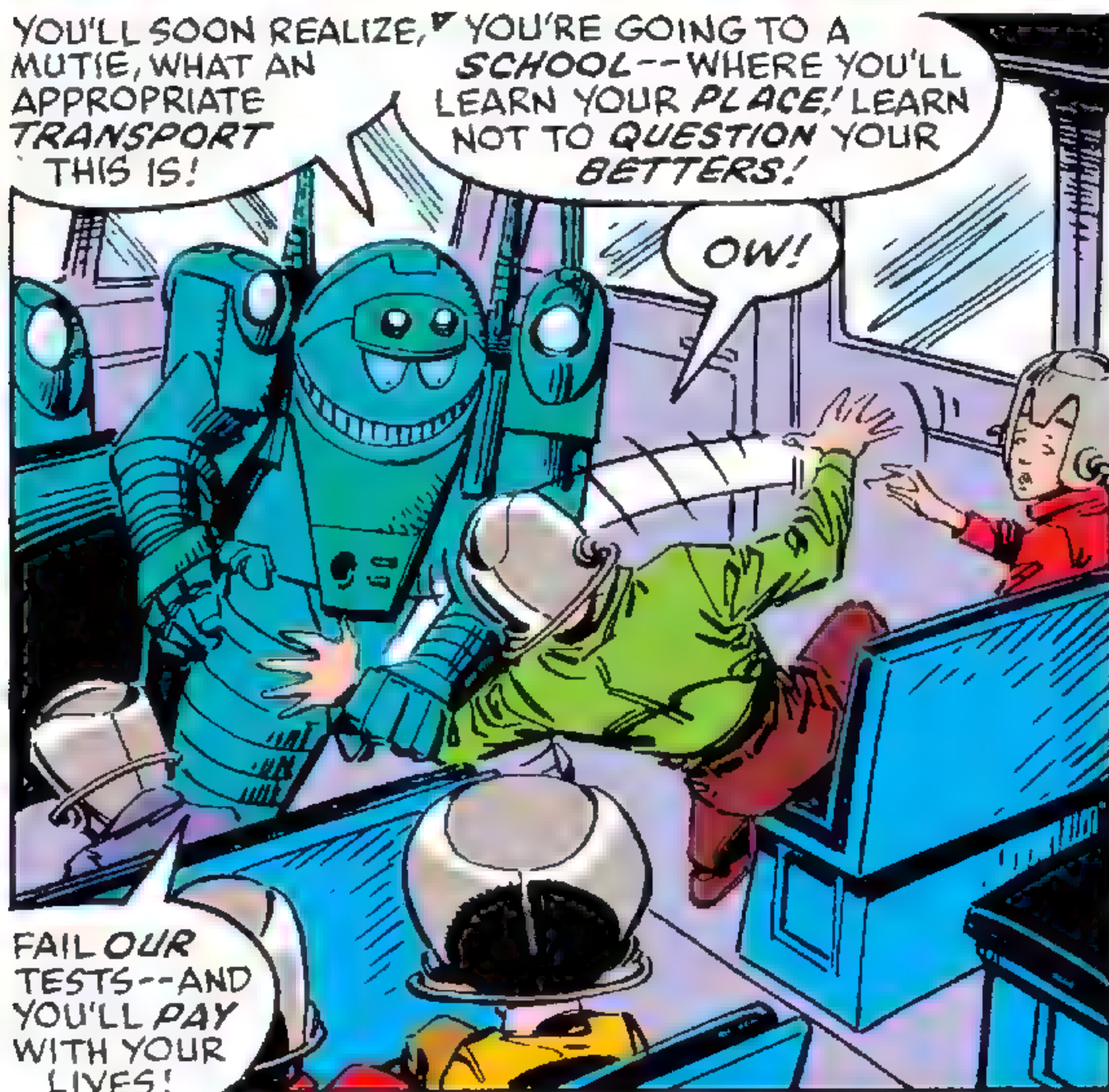


WE'RE AT ARLINGTON,  
RIGHT? BUT... THAT'S  
A CEMETERY, ISN'T IT?  
OR IS IT A CITY? WHAT-  
EVER... THERE'S NO CITY  
AROUND!

HEY, A HIGHWAY!  
SCHOOL BUSES!  
GREAT! ONLY THEY'RE  
MOVING SO FAST!

I JUST HOPE  
I CAN THUMB A  
RIDE OR I'LL  
NEVER KEEP  
UP!

WE'RE IN A  
SCHOOL BUS?  
BUT--WHY? WHERE--

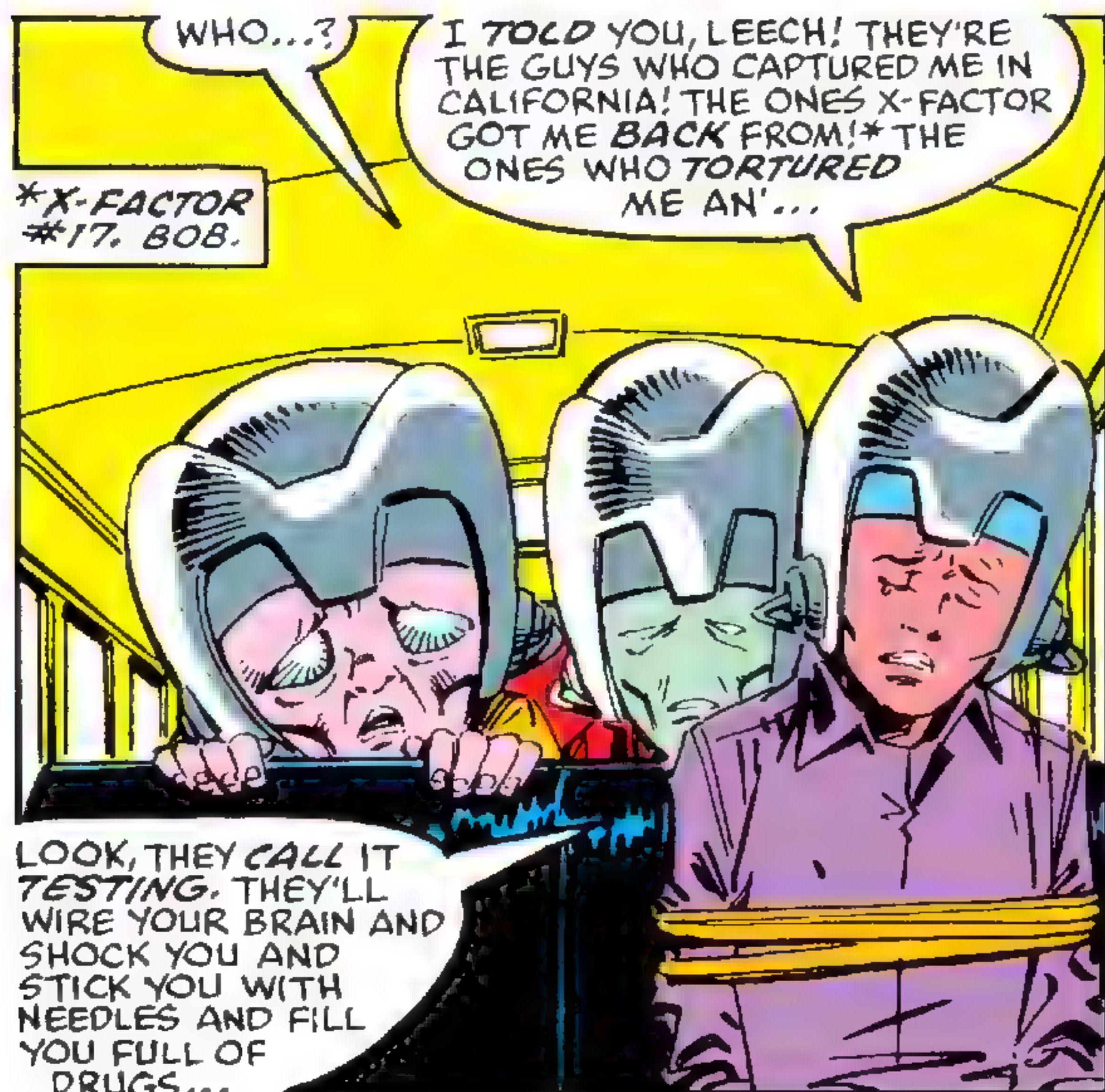


YOU'LL SOON REALIZE,  
MUTIE, WHAT AN  
APPROPRIATE  
TRANSPORT  
THIS IS!

YOU'RE GOING TO A  
SCHOOL--WHERE YOU'LL  
LEARN YOUR PLACE! LEARN  
NOT TO QUESTION YOUR  
BETTERS!

OW!

FAIL OUR  
TESTS--AND  
YOU'LL PAY  
WITH YOUR  
LIVES!



WHO...?

I TOLD YOU, LEECH! THEY'RE  
THE GUYS WHO CAPTURED ME IN  
CALIFORNIA! THE ONES X-FACTOR  
GOT ME BACK FROM! \*THE  
ONES WHO TORTURED  
ME AN'...

\*X-FACTOR  
#17. BOB.

LOOK, THEY CALL IT  
TESTING. THEY'LL  
WIRE YOUR BRAIN AND  
SHOCK YOU AND  
STICK YOU WITH  
NEEDLES AND FILL  
YOU FULL OF  
DRUGS...



...AND IN THE END,  
YOU'LL DO ANYTHING,  
IF ONLY IT'LL MAKE  
THEM STOP!

ANGEL WAS A HERO,  
RIGHT? BUT WHEN HE  
COULDN'T TAKE IT NO  
MORE, HE KILLED  
HIMSELF.

THEY START  
UP WITH ME  
AGAIN, I WON'T  
BE ABLE TO TAKE  
IT NO MORE,  
EITHER!



A COUPLE OF  
HITCHED RIDES  
AND SEVERAL  
HOURS LATER...

THERE WAS A STEADY STREAM  
OF BUSES TO FOLLOW... BUT...  
A SCIENCE MUSEUM?? THAT  
CAN'T BE RIGHT! OR CAN IT?

Welcome to ARLINGTON INTERACTIVE  
MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

HOLY MAROLEE! THERE'S  
DOZENS OF BUSES!  
WHICH ONE?

THERE'S ONE  
ROUND THE SIDE,  
AWAY FROM THE  
OTHERS, MAYBE  
IT--

OH!

PARTA THE V YA OUGHTA STICK WITH  
SPECIAL  
SPACE  
EXHIBIT,  
SEE?

YER CLASS, GIRLIE.  
WANDERIN' 'ROUND  
PLACES YA DON'T BELONG  
...MIGHT BE DANGEROUS!

YEAH! I... UH...  
SEE WHAT YOU  
MEAN! I'LL...  
CATCH UP WITH  
MY CLASS NOW  
...LIKE YOU  
SAID...

WHAT'RE  
YOU DOIN'  
HERE, KID?

I... UH... WAS  
JUST... YA KNOW...  
LOOKIN' FOR THE LADIES  
ROOM... UM, SIR. THAT'S  
A REAL... UNUSUAL  
SUIT.

... IF  
THAT'S OKAY  
WITH YOU!

WHEW! EXCEPT FOR  
THE SMILE-FACE GUYS,  
IT ALL LOOKS SO NOR-  
MAL, LIKE ANY GROUP  
OF DIPPY SCHOOL KIDS  
TAKING A DIPPY CLASS  
TRIP!

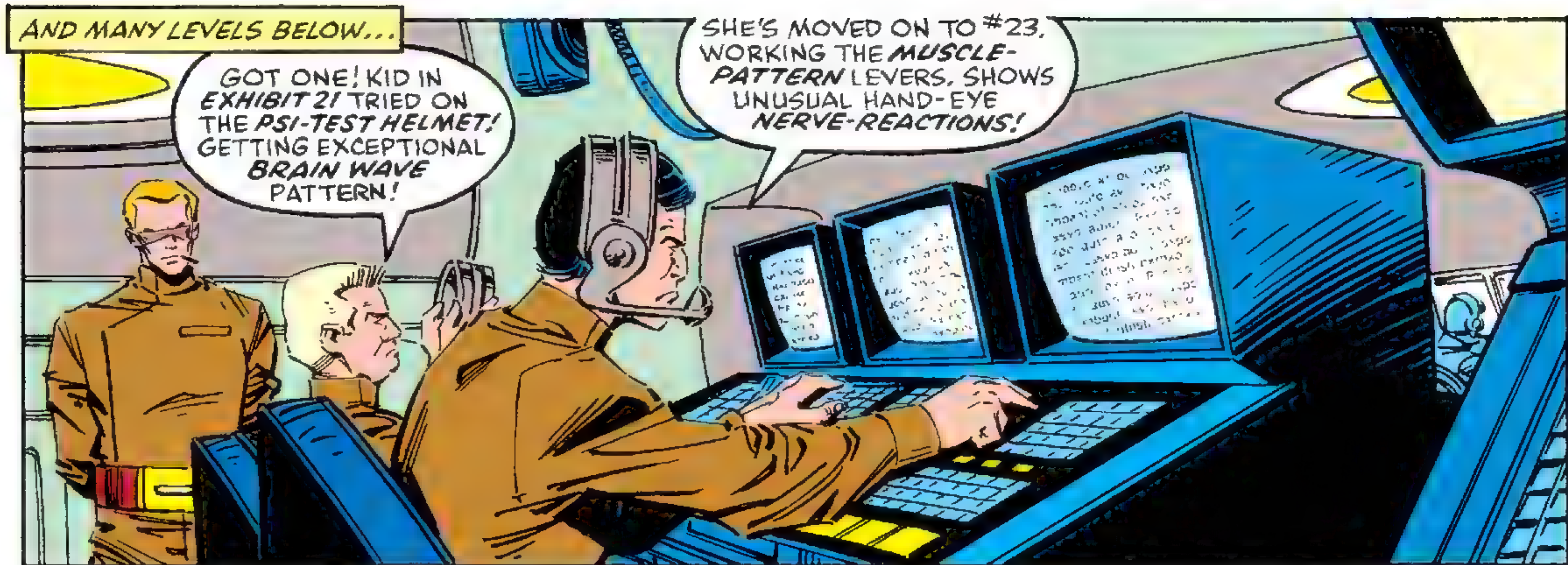
I FEEL LIKE ALICE  
IN WONDERLAND.  
THINGS'VE TURNED  
SO FUNNY, I DON'T  
EVEN KNOW WHERE  
I AM...

... BUT I KNOW WHAT I  
GOTTA DO! PLAY WITH  
THE EXHIBITS LIKE ANY  
NORMAL KID! BLEND IN...  
TILL I FIND A PHONE!

THEN CALL  
X-FACTOR-- IF  
THEY'RE STILL  
ALIVE.

OR THE  
COPS,  
OR MAYBE EVEN  
THE PRESIDENT.





AND MANY LEVELS BELOW...

GOT ONE! KID IN EXHIBIT 21 TRIED ON THE PSI-TEST HELMET! GETTING EXCEPTIONAL BRAIN WAVE PATTERN!

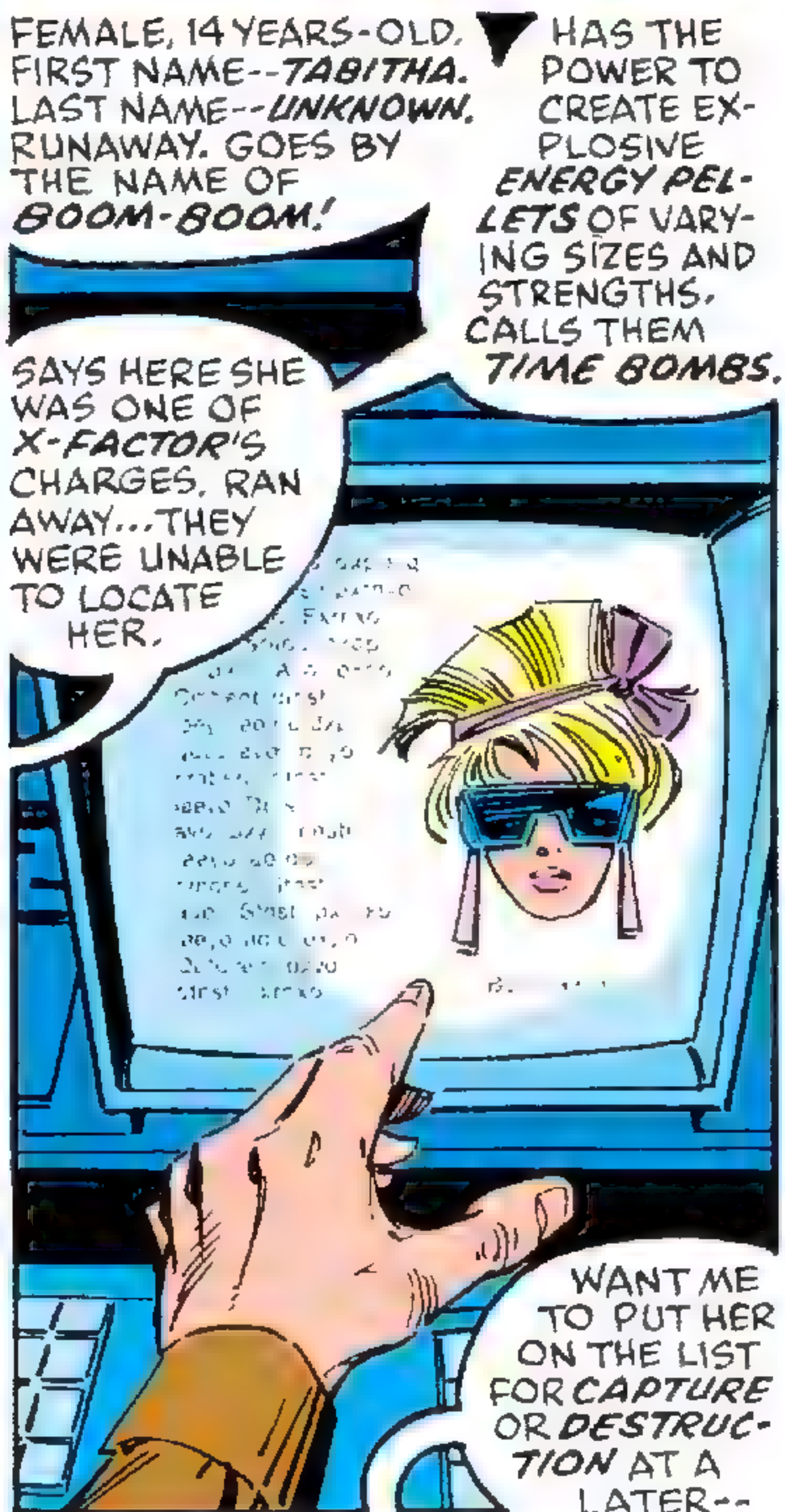
SHE'S MOVED ON TO #23, WORKING THE MUSCLE-PATTERN LEVERS. SHOWS UNUSUAL HAND-EYE NERVE-REACTIONS!



PULL HER UP ON THE SCREEN.

OKAY, NOW TAKE A PRINT AND SEE IF THE COMPUTER CAN MATCH HER FOR PATTERN OR LIKENESS.

GOT HER, LIEUTENANT! MUTIE'S ON FILE, ALREADY!



FEMALE, 14 YEARS-OLD. FIRST NAME--TABITHA. LAST NAME--UNKNOWN. RUNAWAY. GOES BY THE NAME OF BOOM-BOOM!

HAS THE POWER TO CREATE EXPLOSIVE ENERGY PELLETS OF VARYING SIZES AND STRENGTHS. CALLS THEM TIME BOMBS.

SAYS HERE SHE WAS ONE OF X-FACTOR'S CHARGES. RAN AWAY...THEY WERE UNABLE TO LOCATE HER.

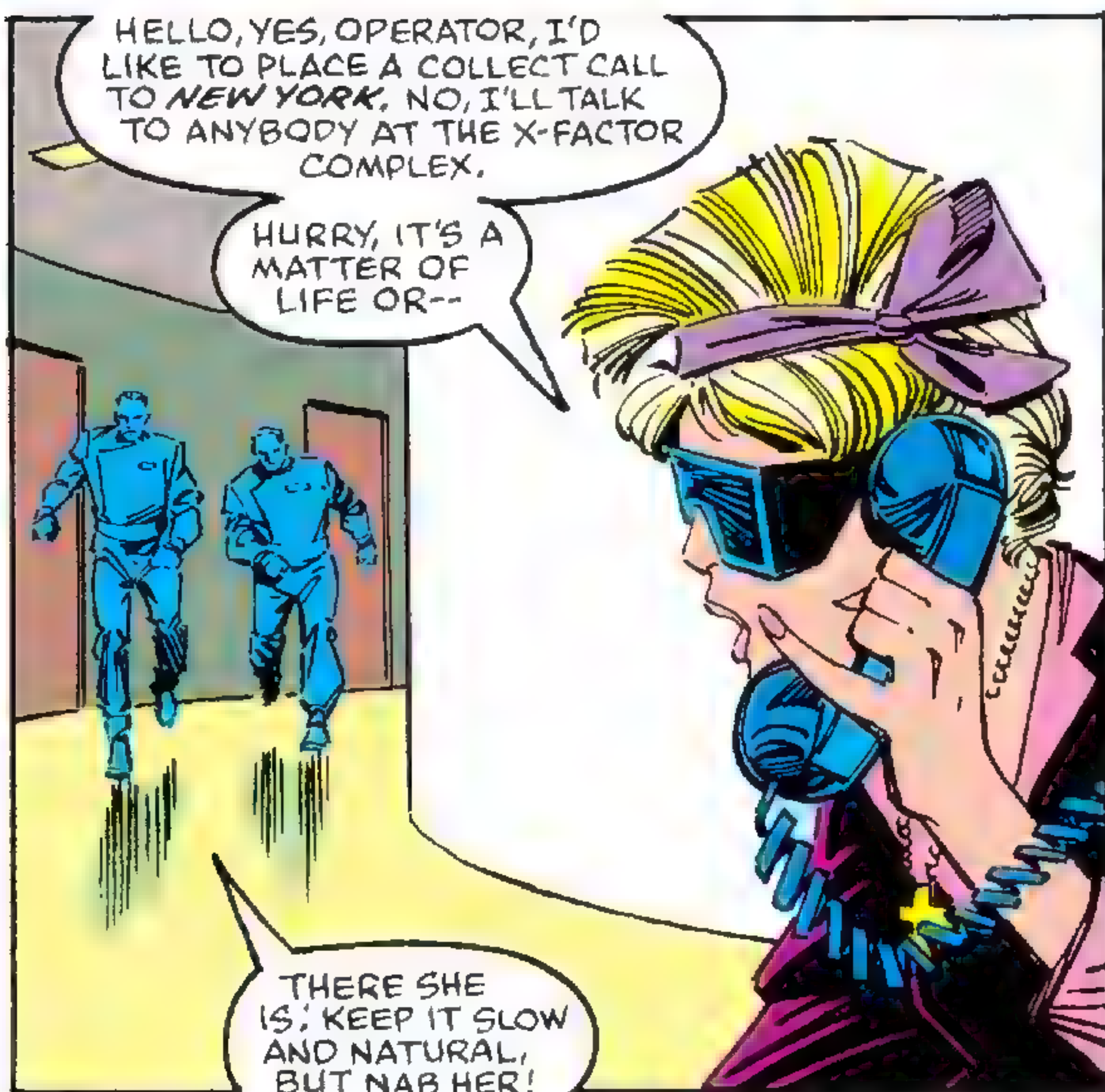
WANT ME TO PUT HER ON THE LIST FOR CAPTURE OR DESTRUCTION AT A LATER--



WAIT, SIR. SHE'S ON THE TELEPHONE... TRYING TO CALL NEW YORK!

HER PRESENCE AT THIS BASE IS NO COINCIDENCE! SHE MUST BE CONTAINED, IMMEDIATELY!

IF SHE RESISTS, KILL HER!



HELLO, YES, OPERATOR, I'D LIKE TO PLACE A COLLECT CALL TO NEW YORK. NO, I'LL TALK TO ANYBODY AT THE X-FACTOR COMPLEX.

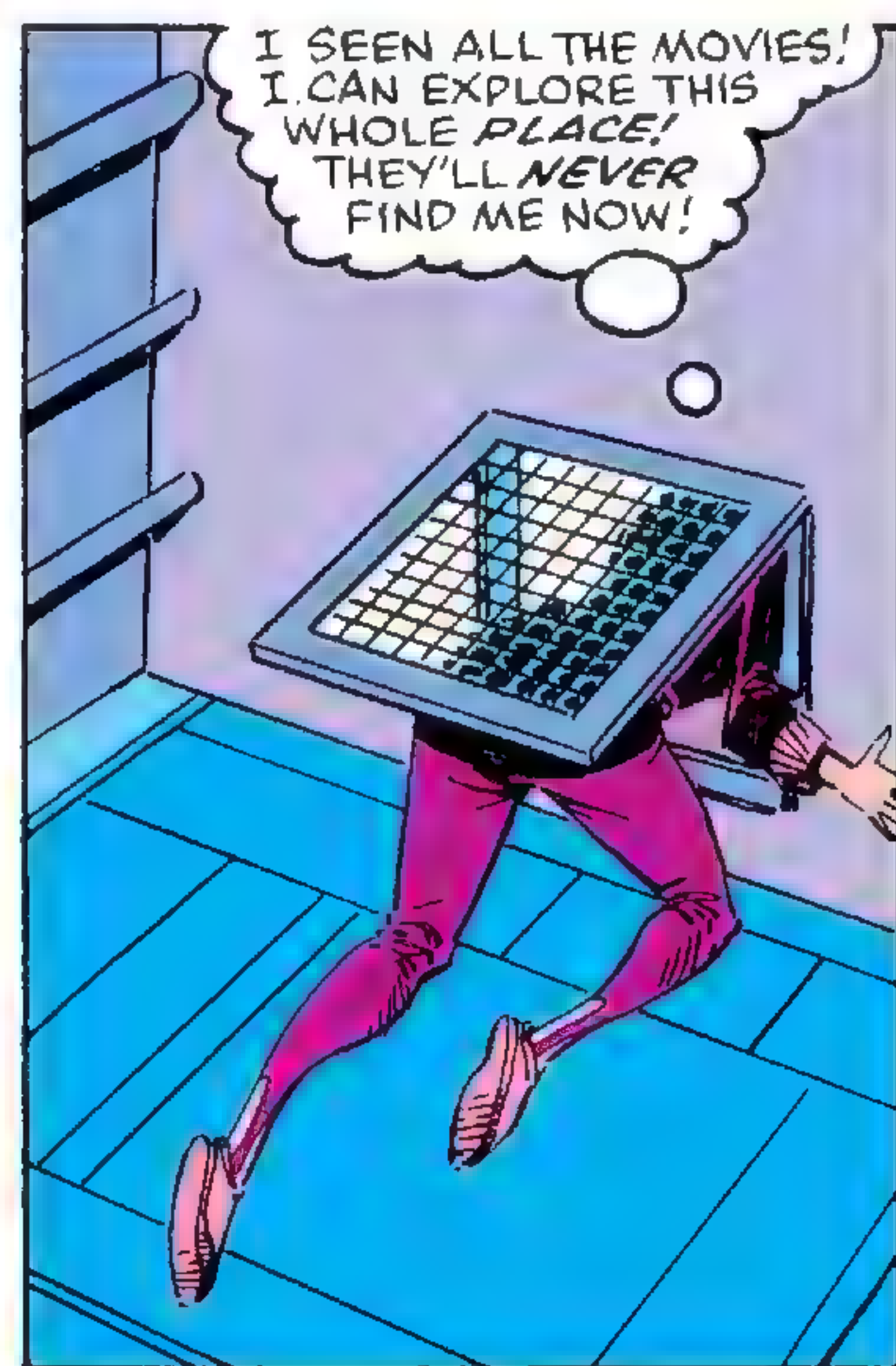
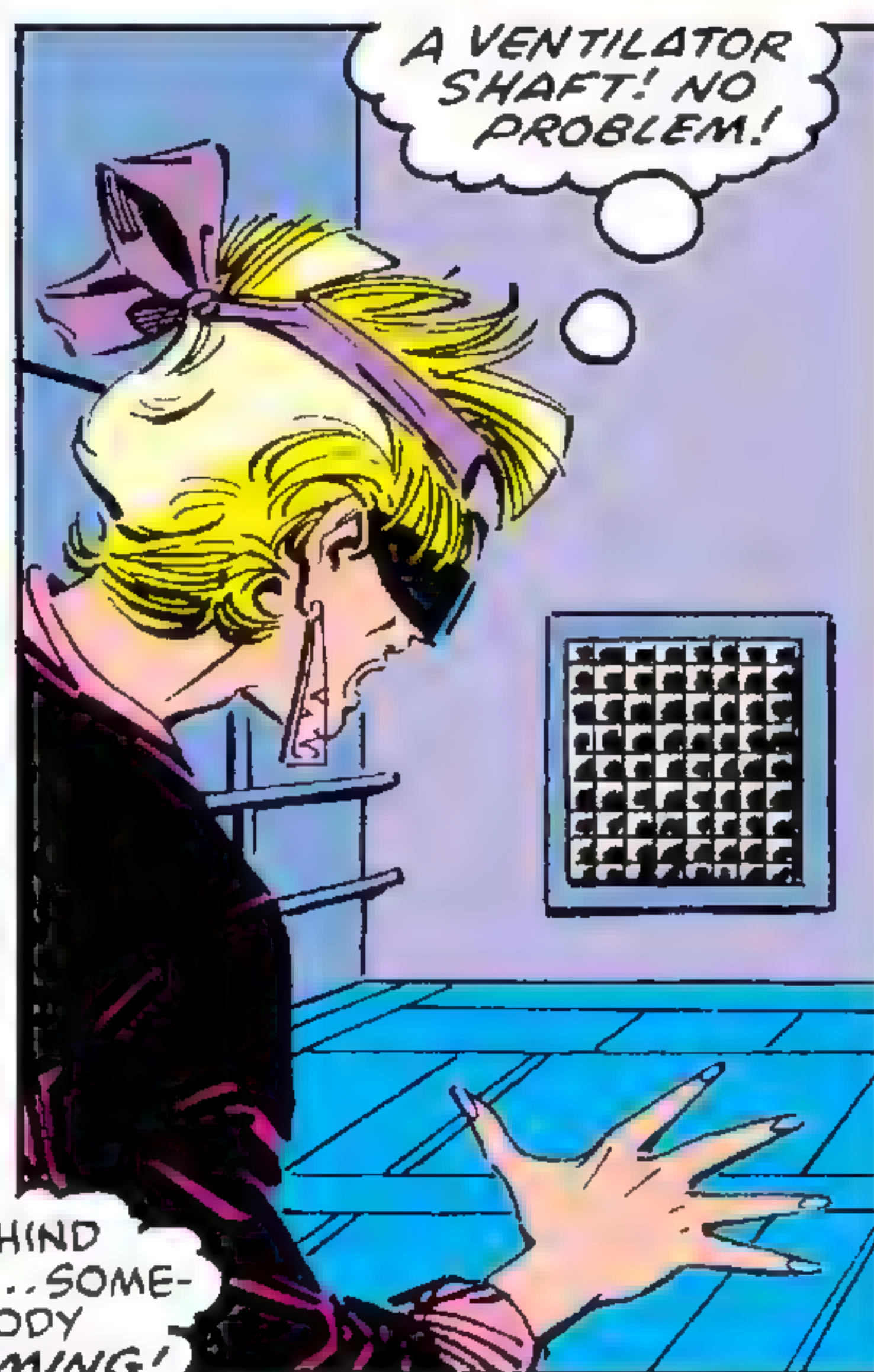
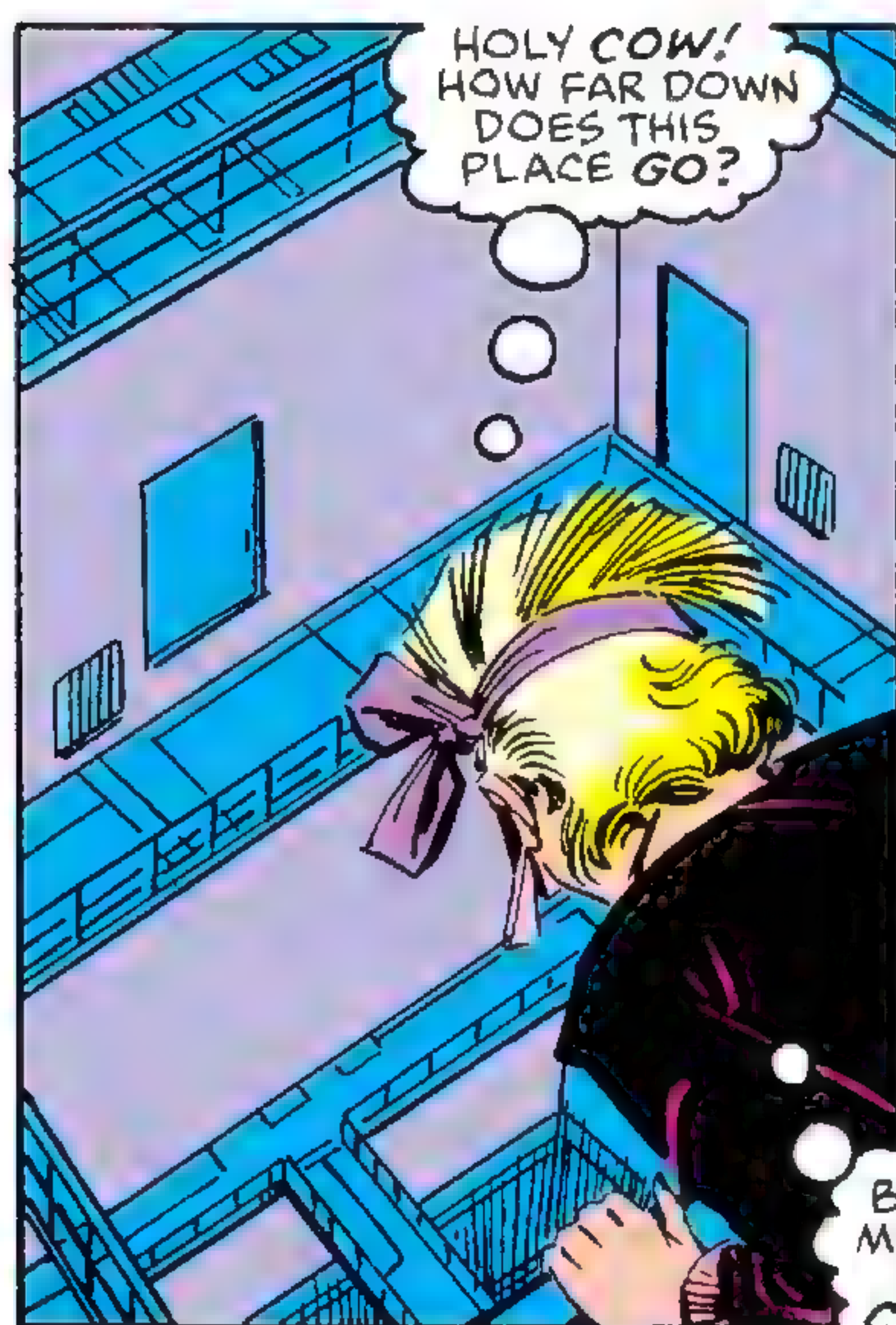
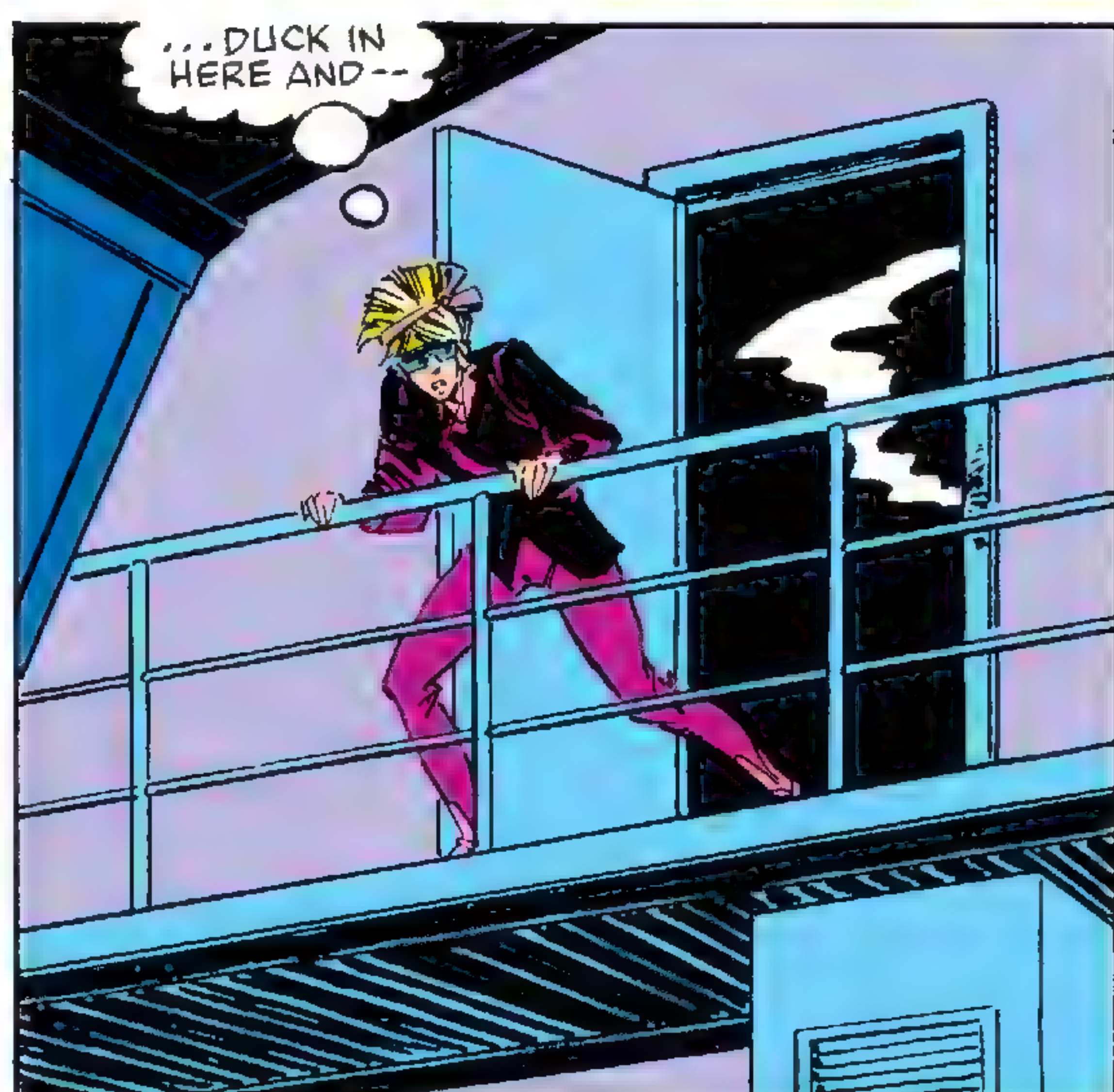
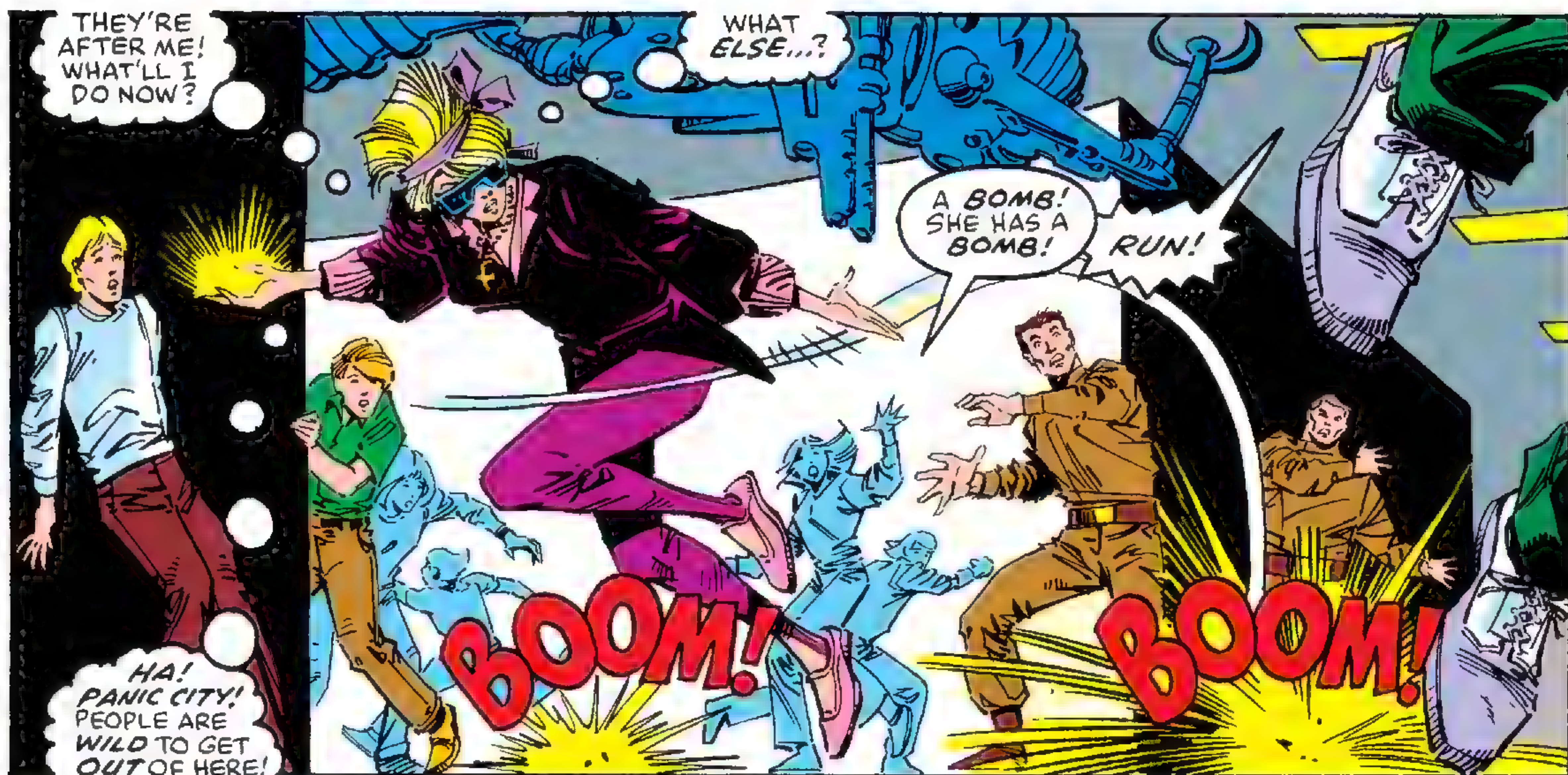
HURRY, IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE OR--

THERE SHE IS! KEEP IT SLOW AND NATURAL, BUT NAB HER!

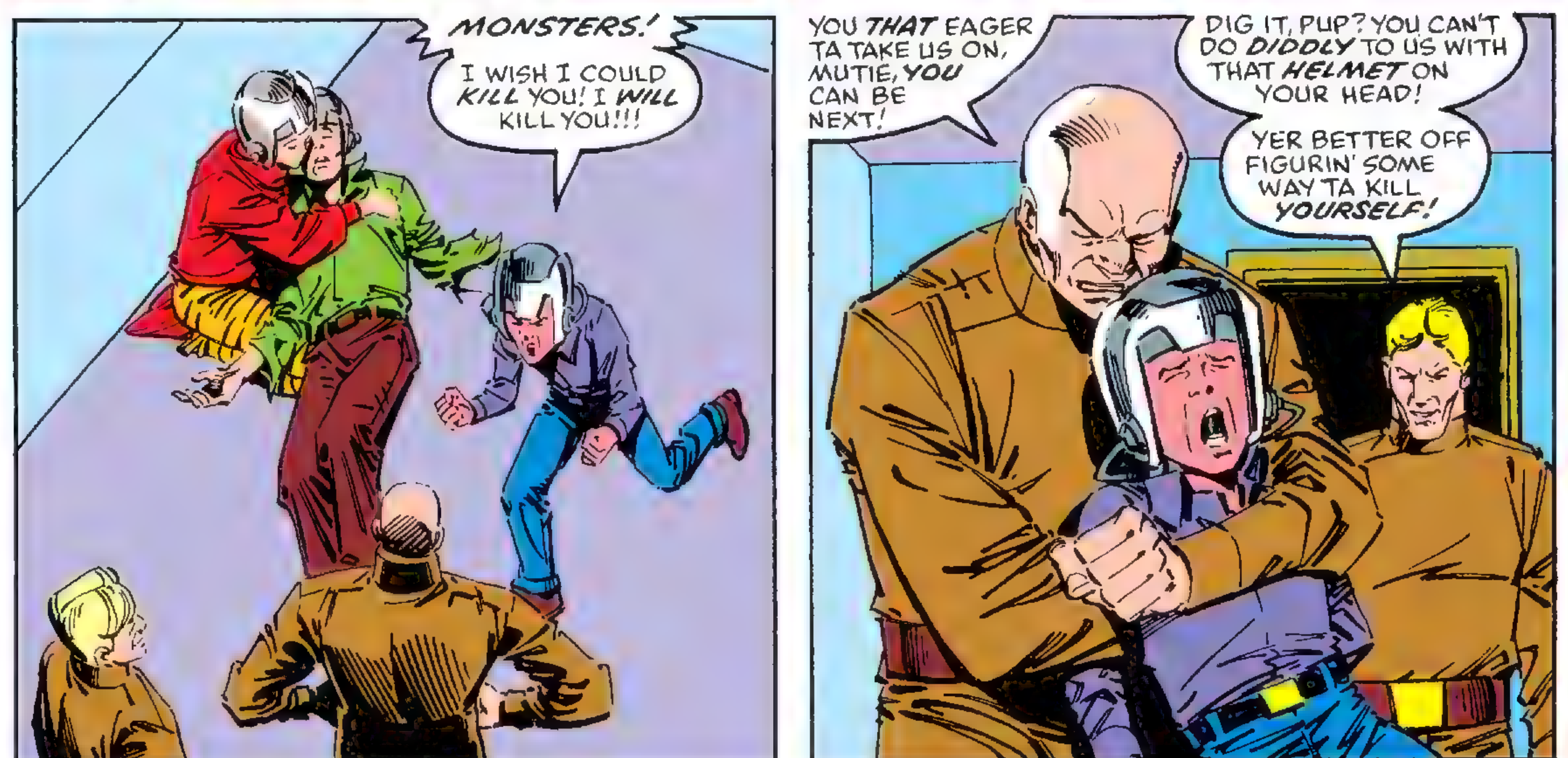
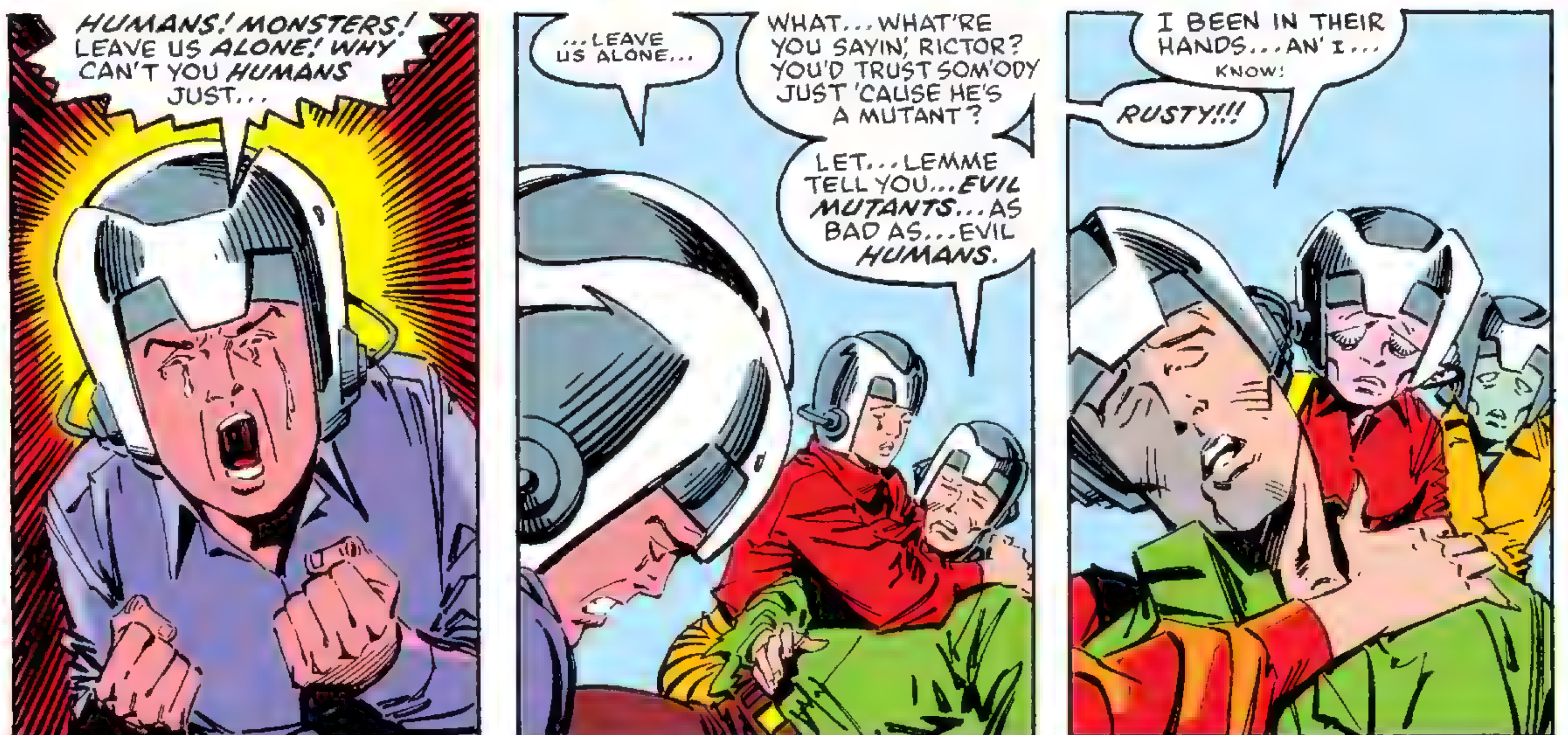
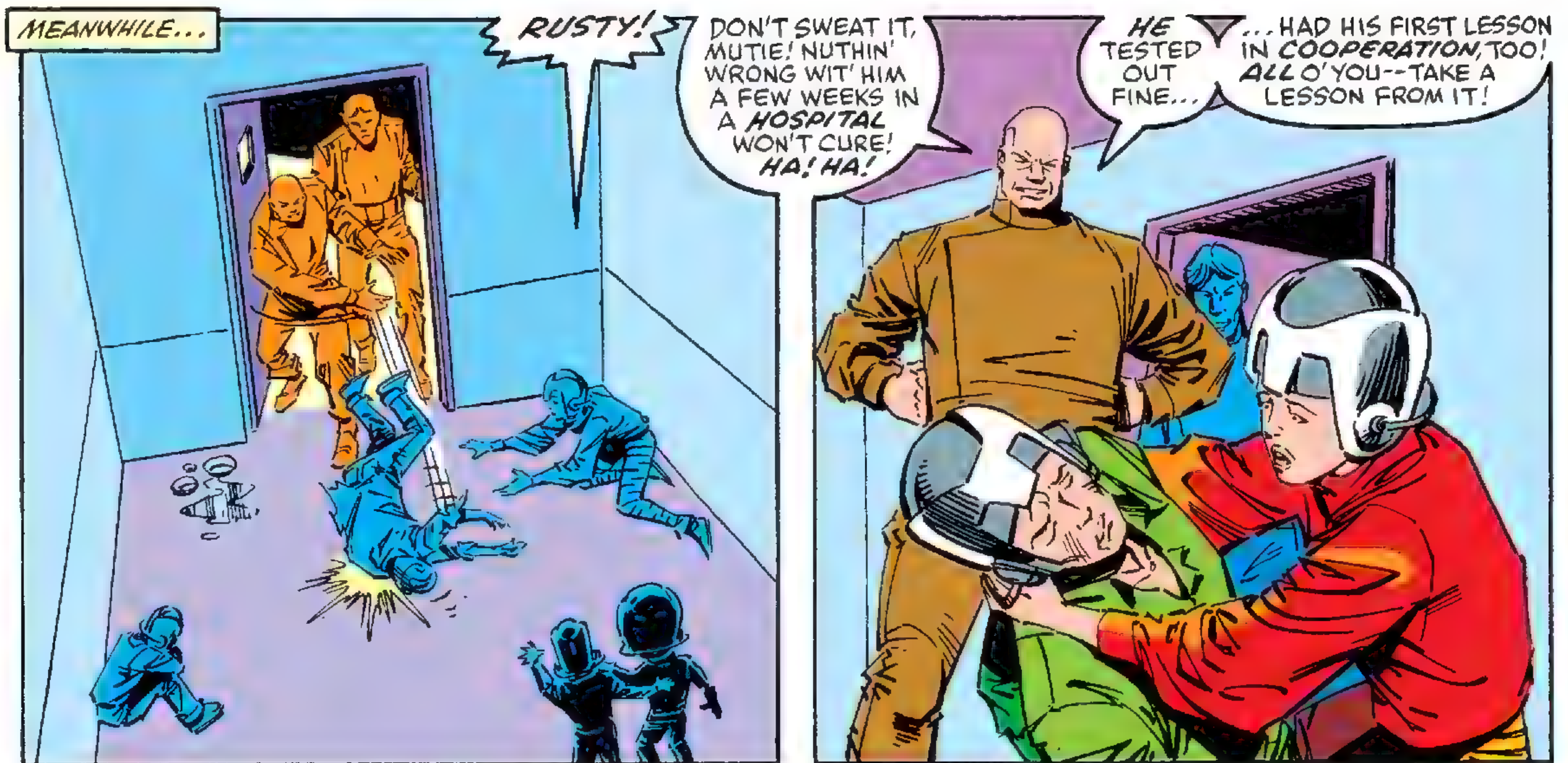


I'M SORRY, MISS, THAT NUMBER APPEARS TO BE OUT OF ORDER...



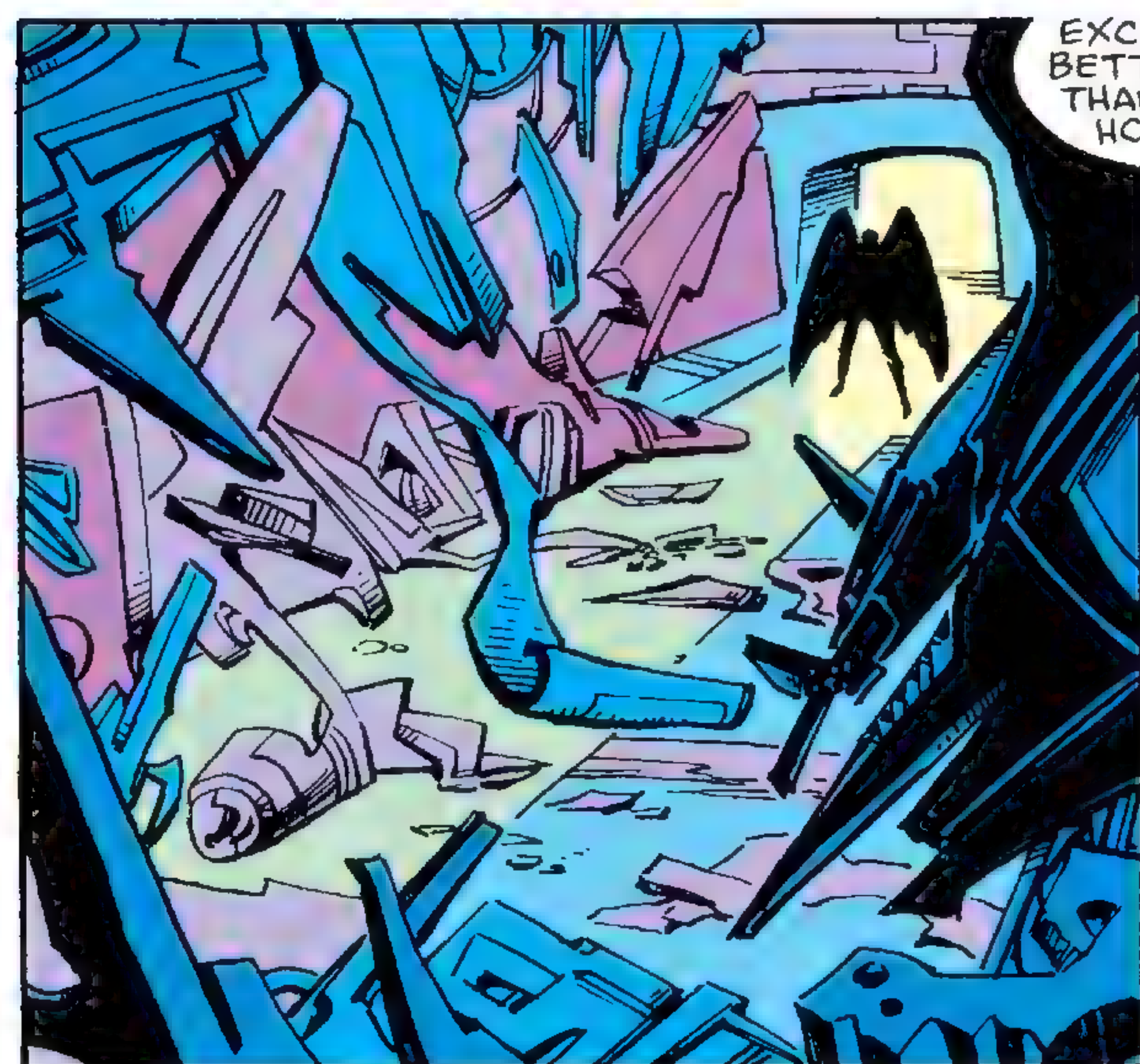
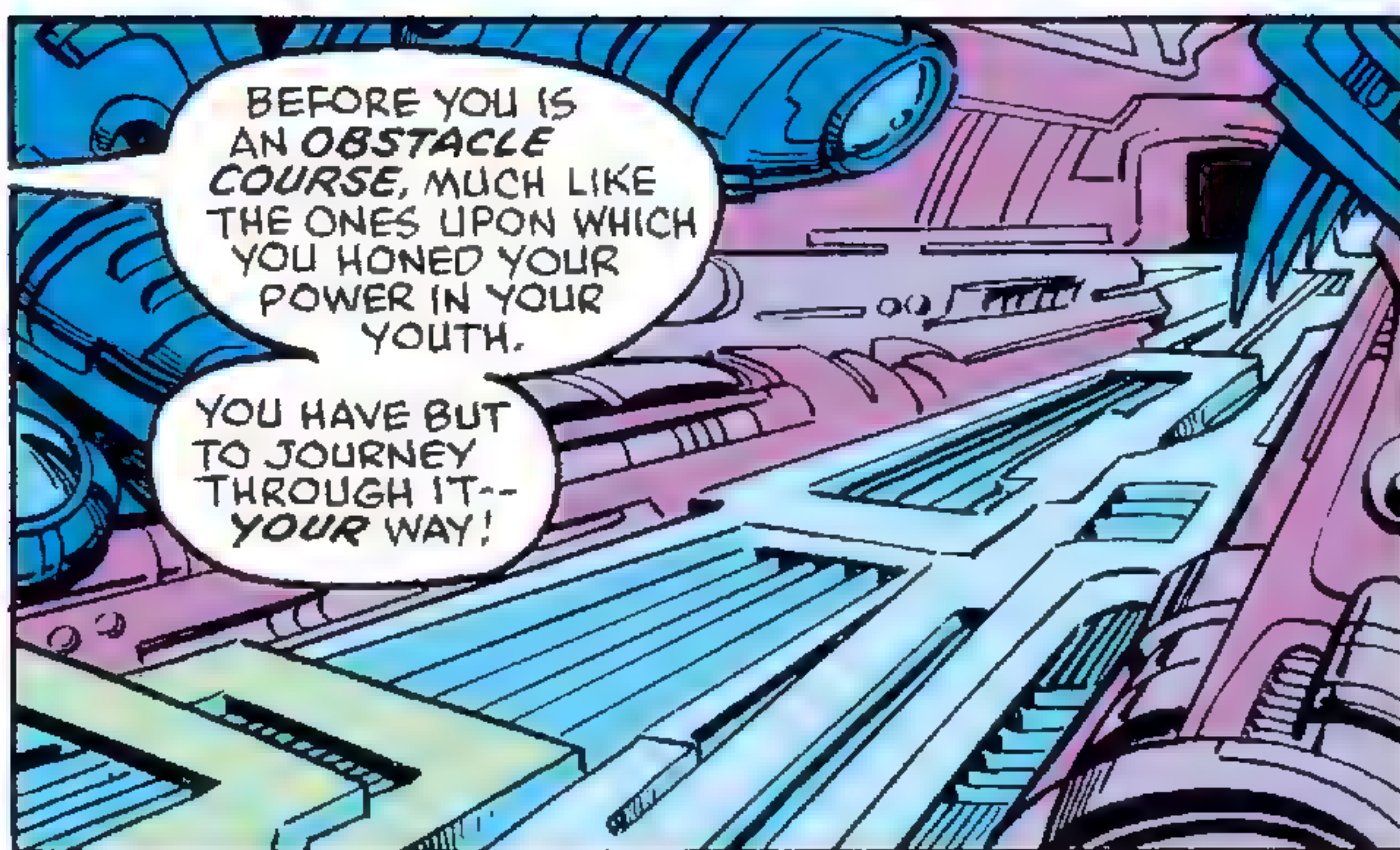
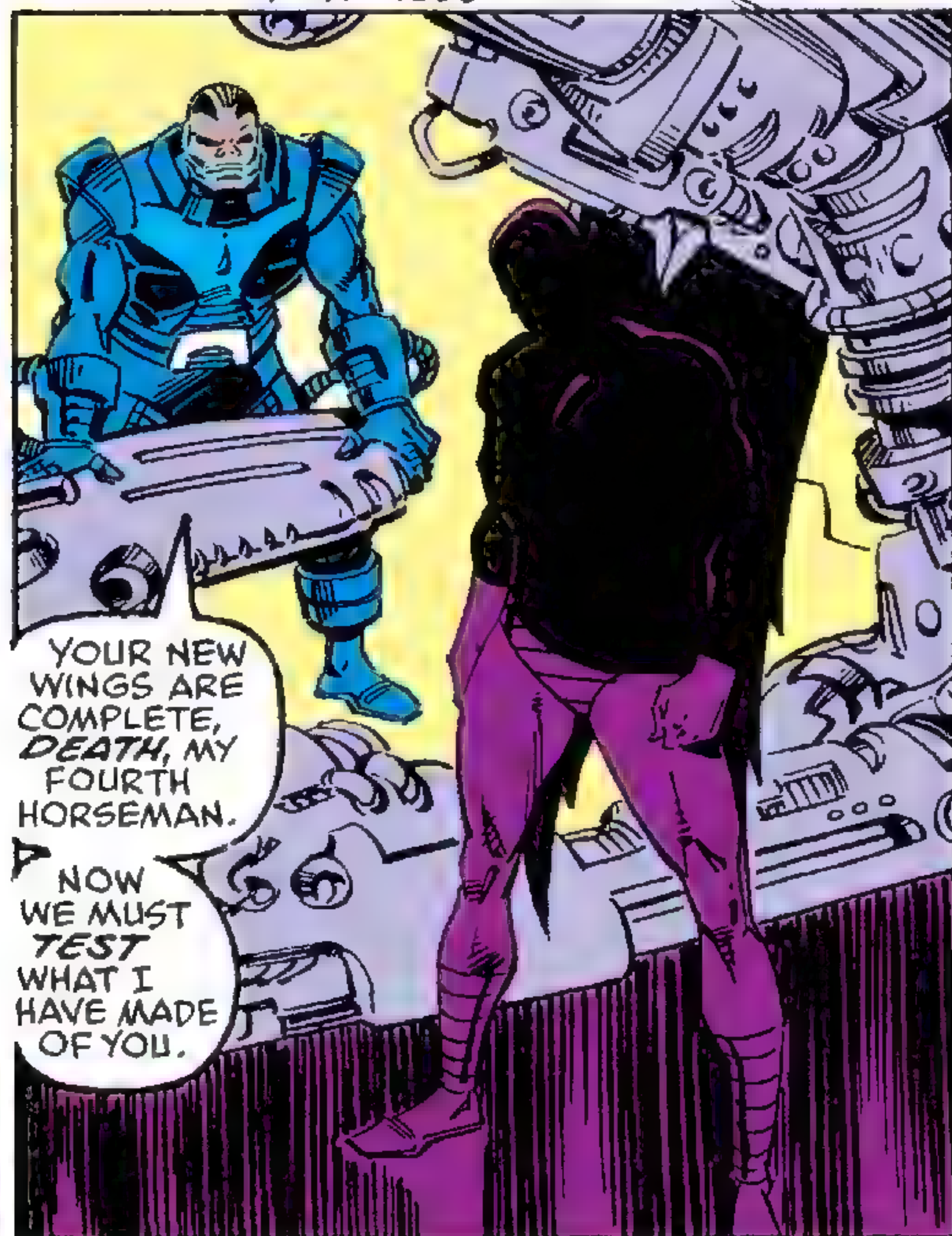








WHILE HIGH ABOVE MANHATTAN, IN THE INVISIBLE  
FLOATING FORTRESS OF APOCALYPSE...





WHILE MANY LEVELS BELOW THE ARLINGTON SCIENCE MUSEUM...

KEEP IT QUIET, BOOM-BOOM, AN' EVENTUALLY YOU'LL REACH THE TOP...

...VENTILATION SHAFTS HAFTA VENT SOMEWHERE...

NO! NO! I WON'T!

WHO'S THAT--?

**AAAAAIIII!**

I WON'T! KILL ME IF YOU WANNA, BUT I WON'T DO IT! NOT AGAIN! NOT EVER!

KILL YOU, MUTIE? DON'T GET YOUR HOPES UP!

WE WON'T HAVE TO KILL YOU TA MAKE YOU COOPERATE. ALL WE HAFTA DO IS TURN UP THE VOLTAGE.

IT'S THAT KID FROM THE PLANE!

I GUESS... MAYBE... I BETTER LEAVE... SO I CAN CALL X-FACTOR... AN' HAVE THEM COME AN'...

**AAAAHH!**

OH, WHO'M I KIDDING? THOSE GOONS PROBABLY -SNIFF- KILLED THEM. LIKE POOR -SNIFF- CALIBAN.

LIKE THEY'LL KILL HIM UNLESS...

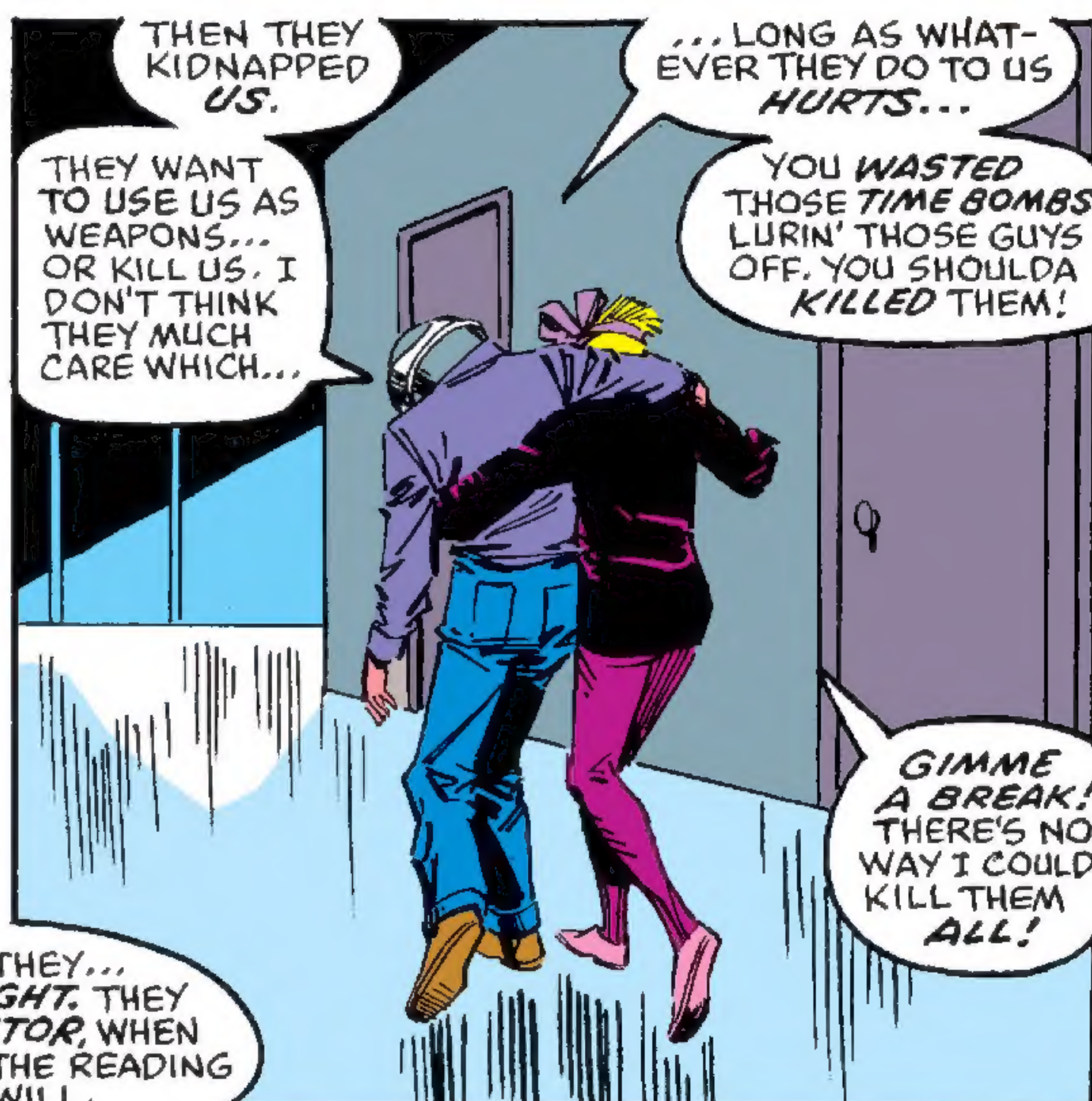
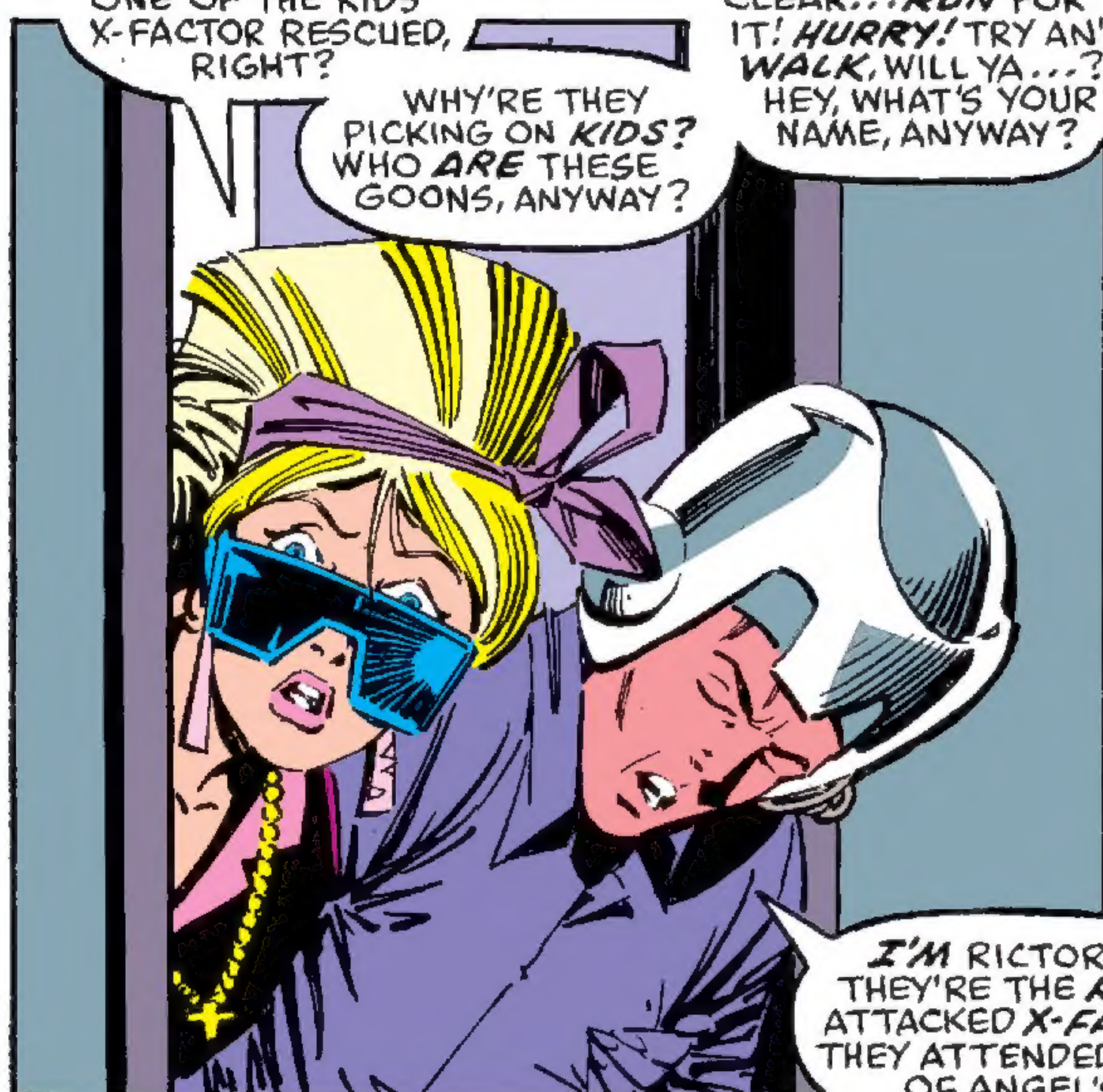
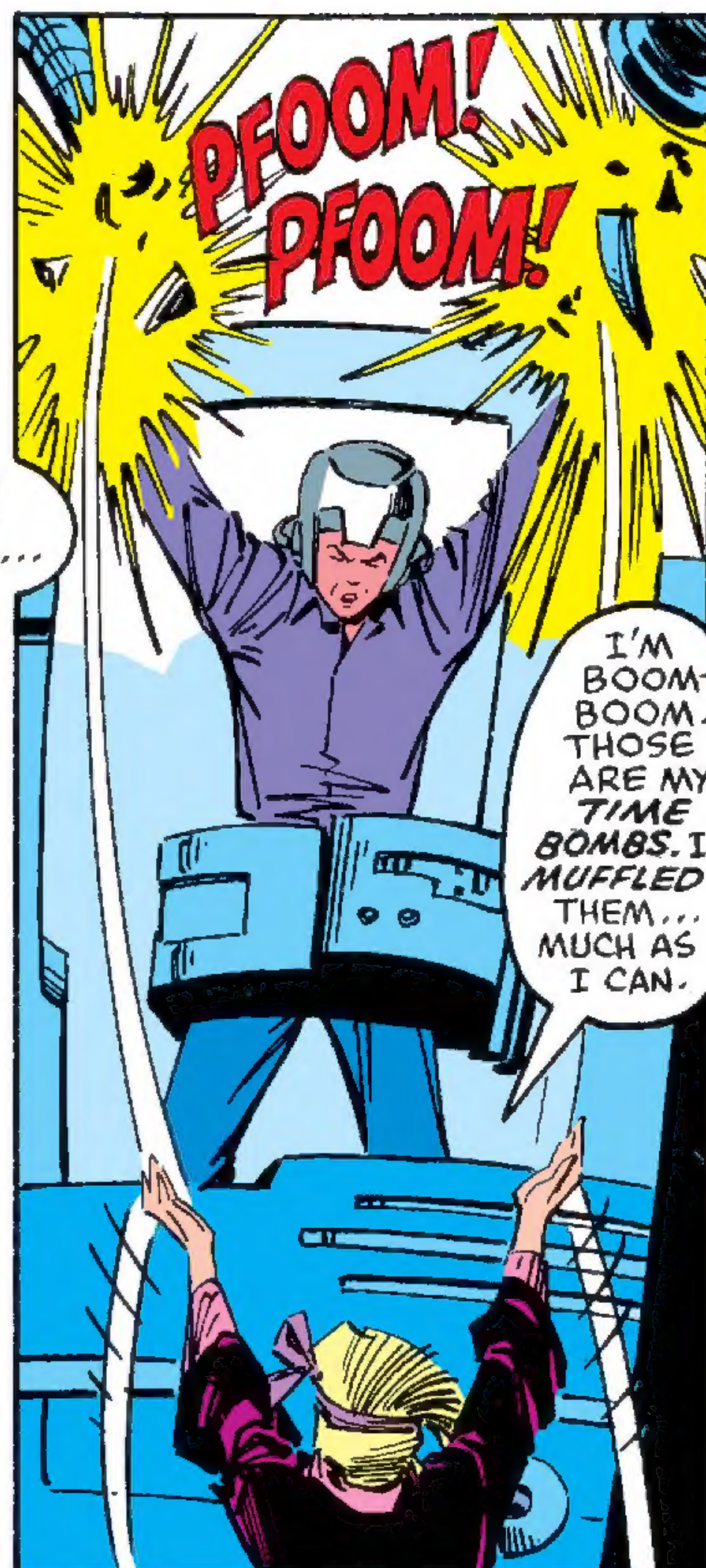
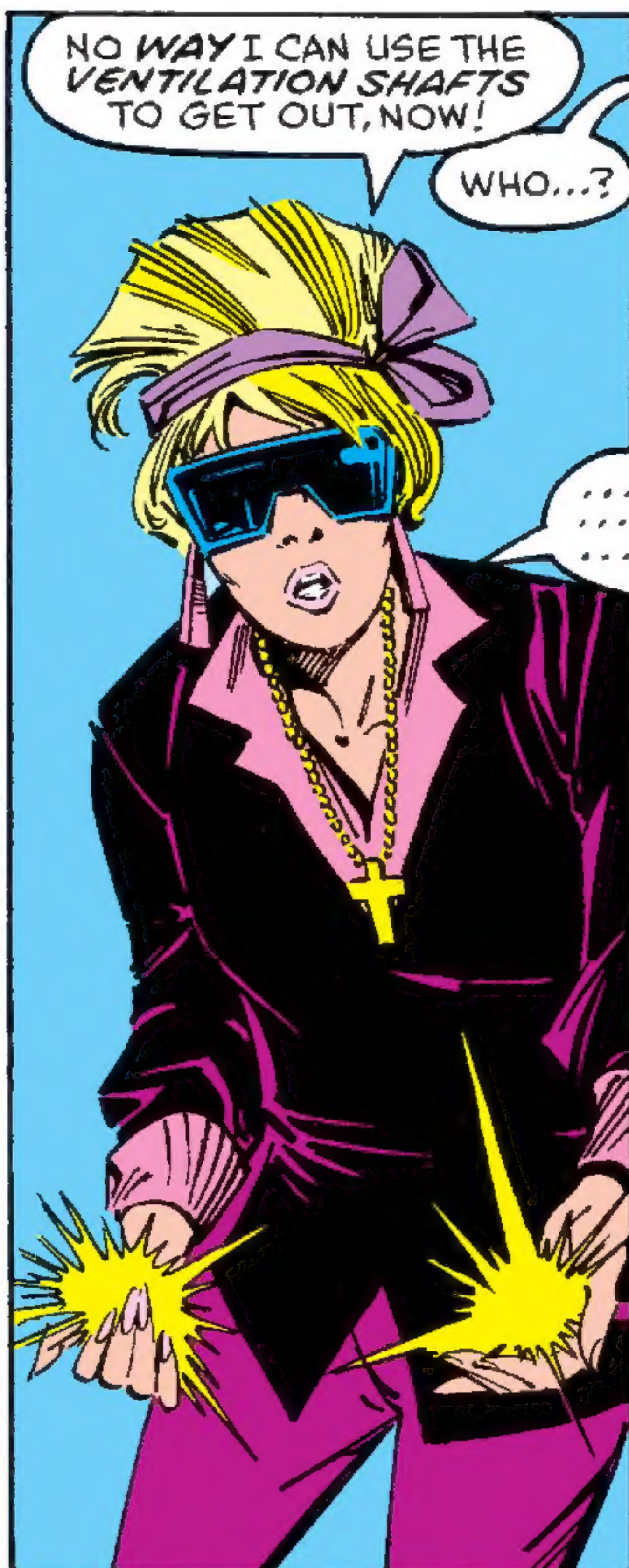
...6...  
5...4...  
3...2...  
1...

**BOOM!**

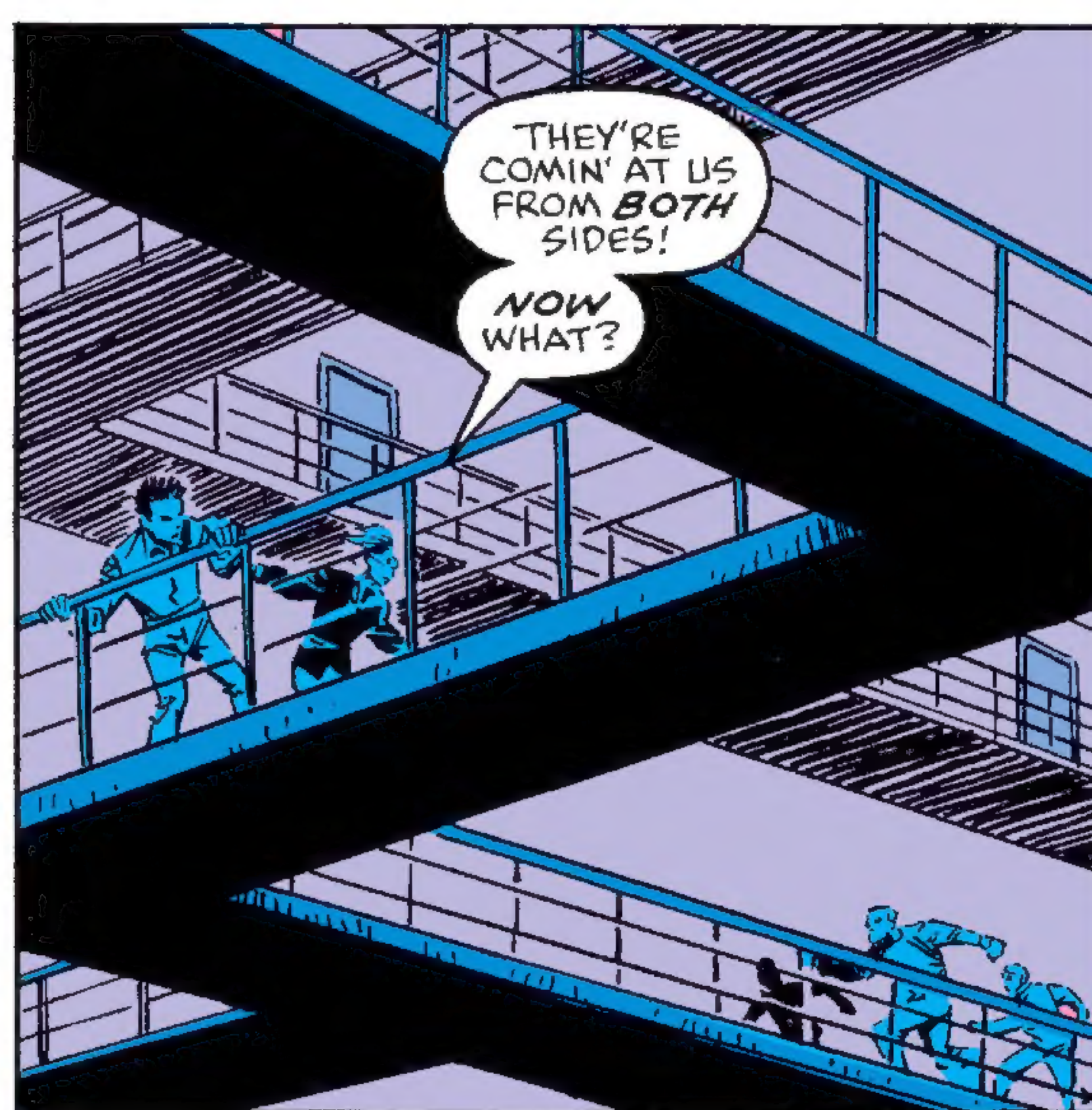
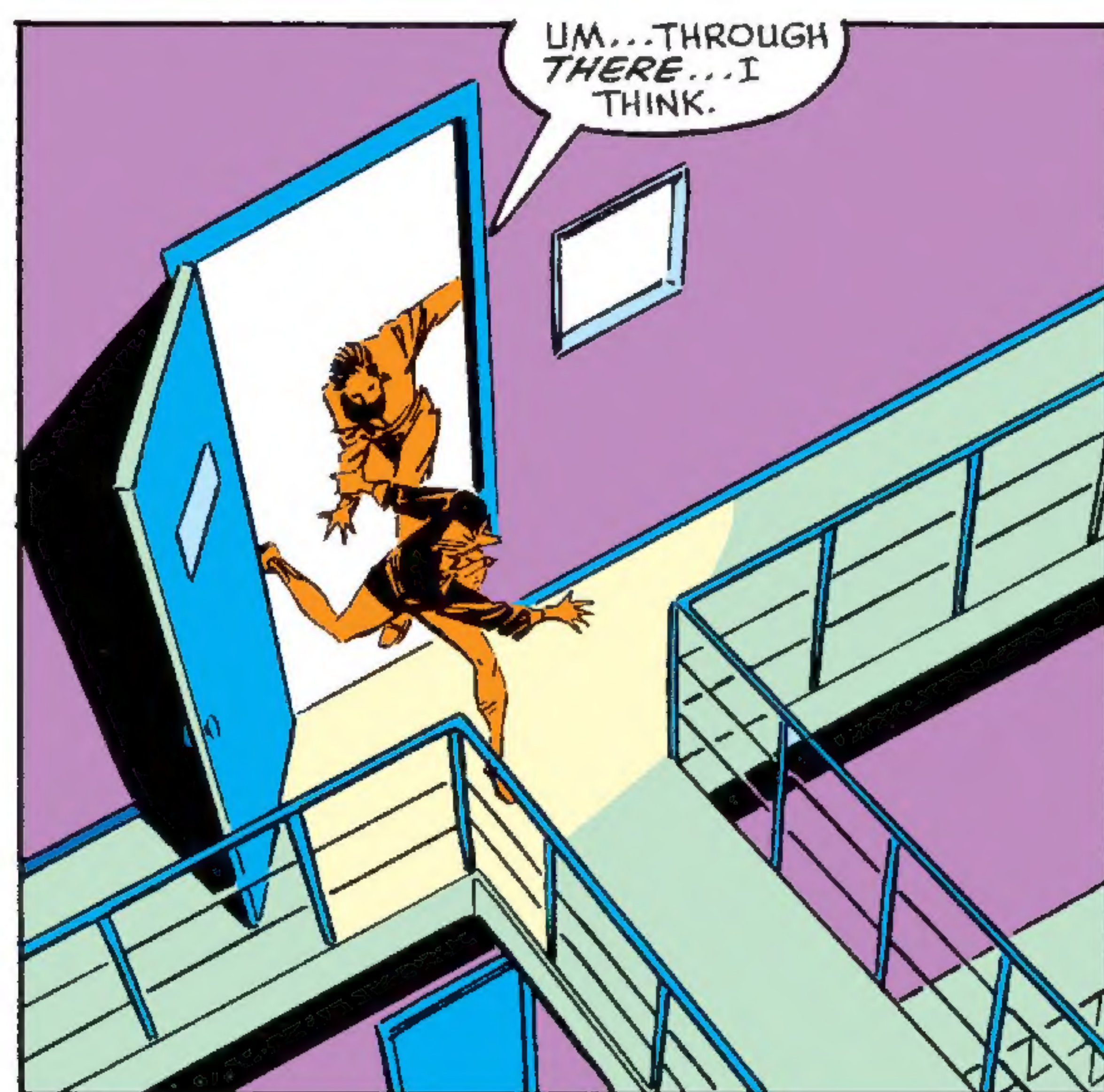
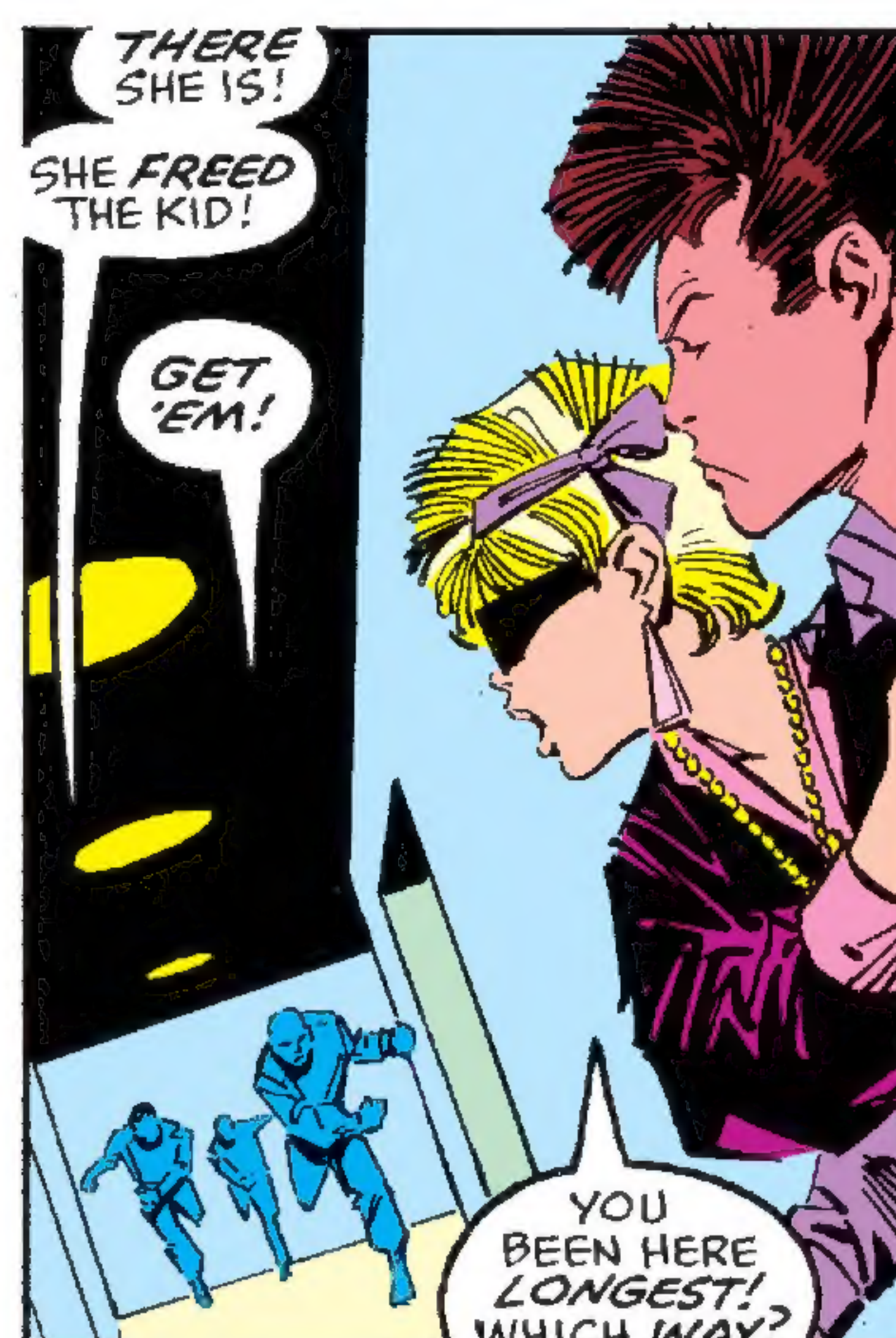
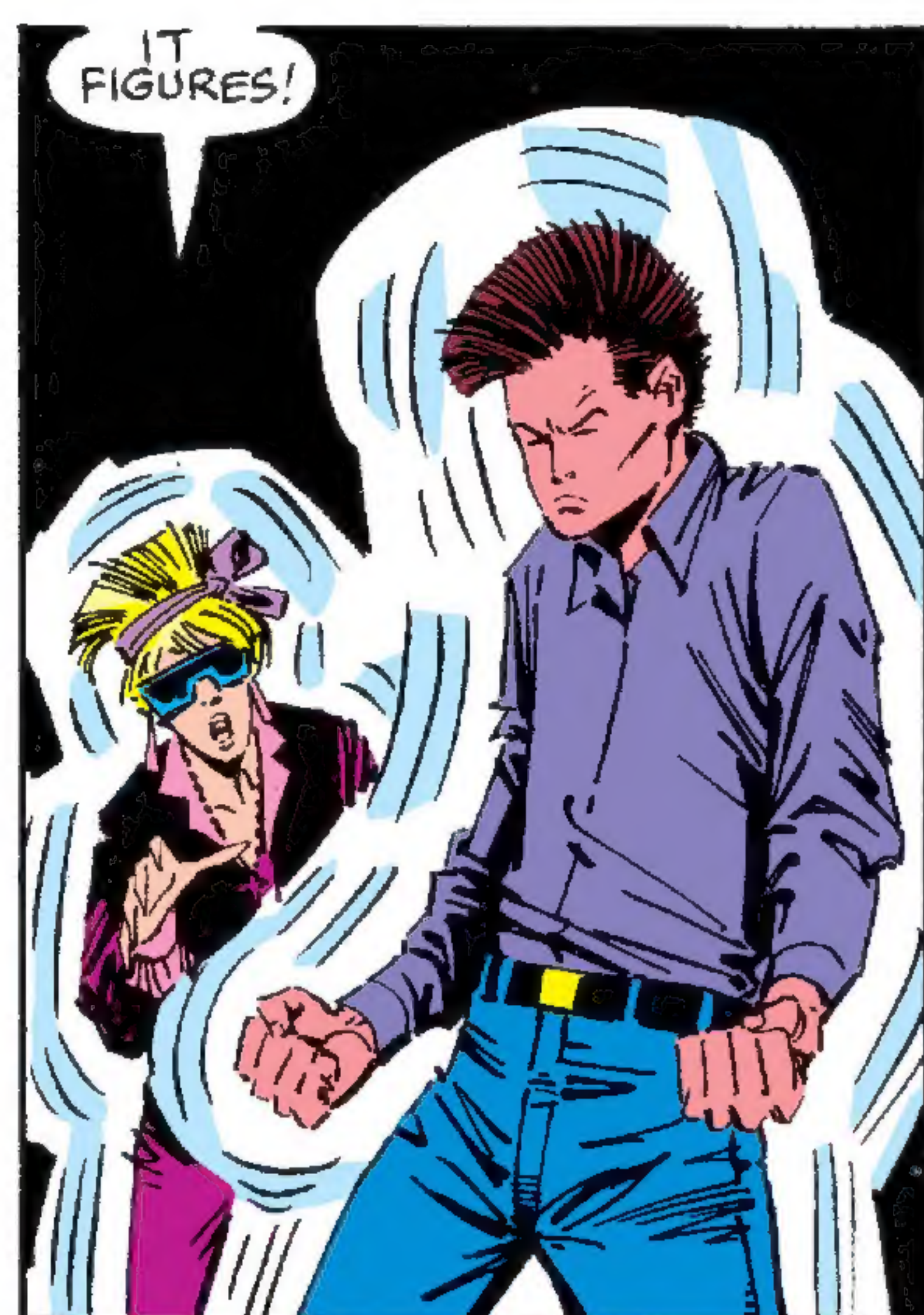
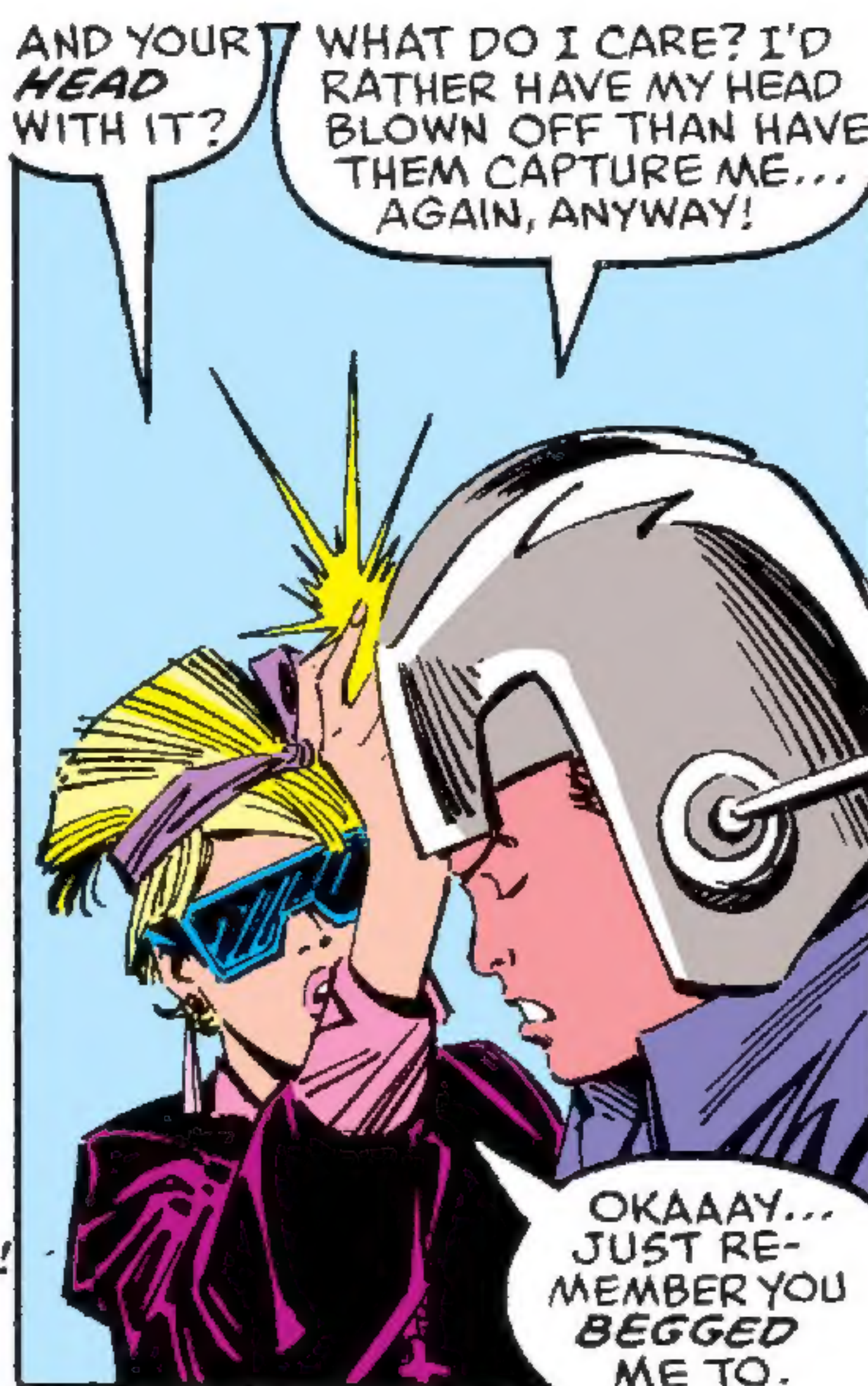
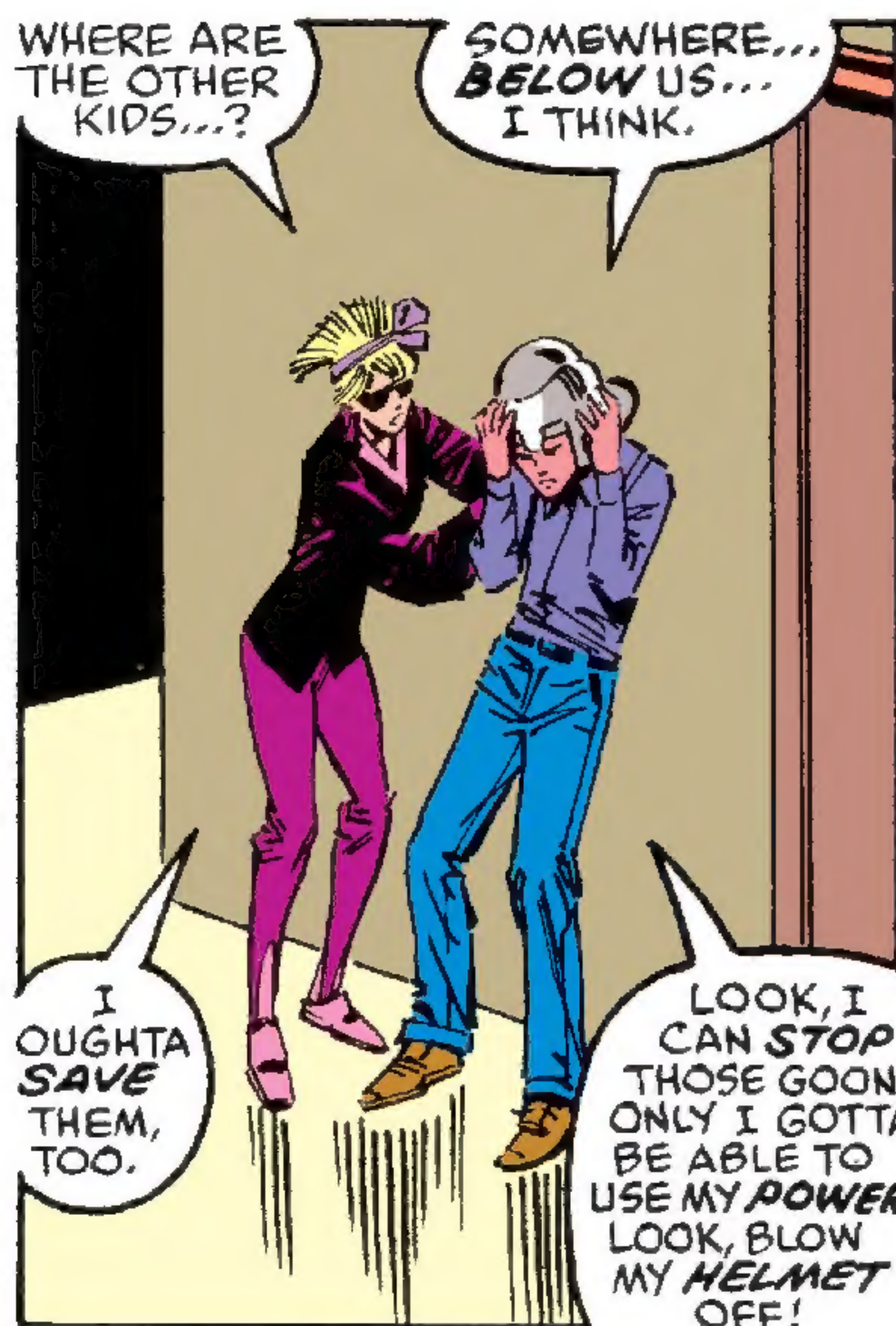
EXPLOSION! AT THE FAR END OF THE CORRIDOR!

WHAT WAS THAT?

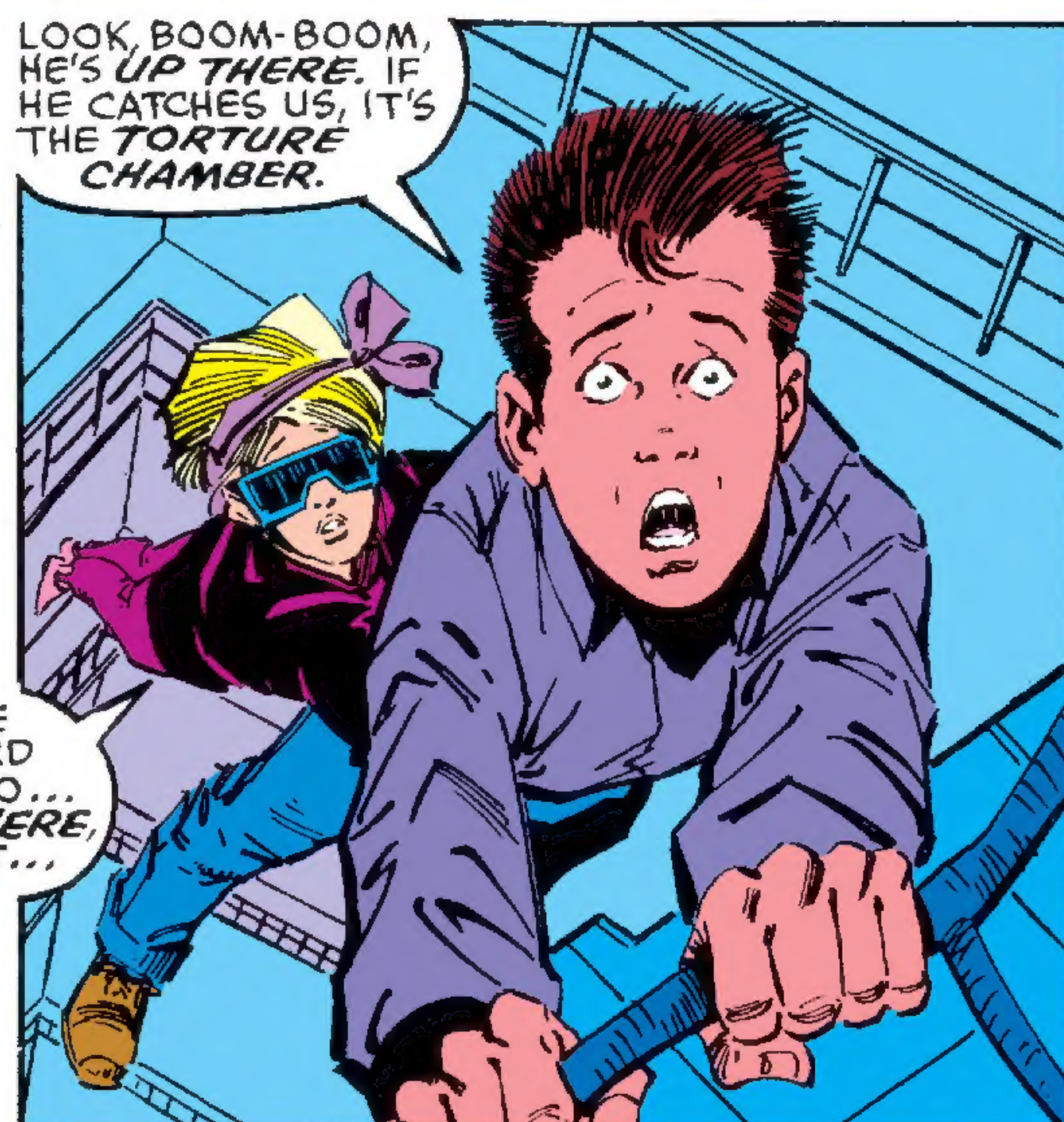
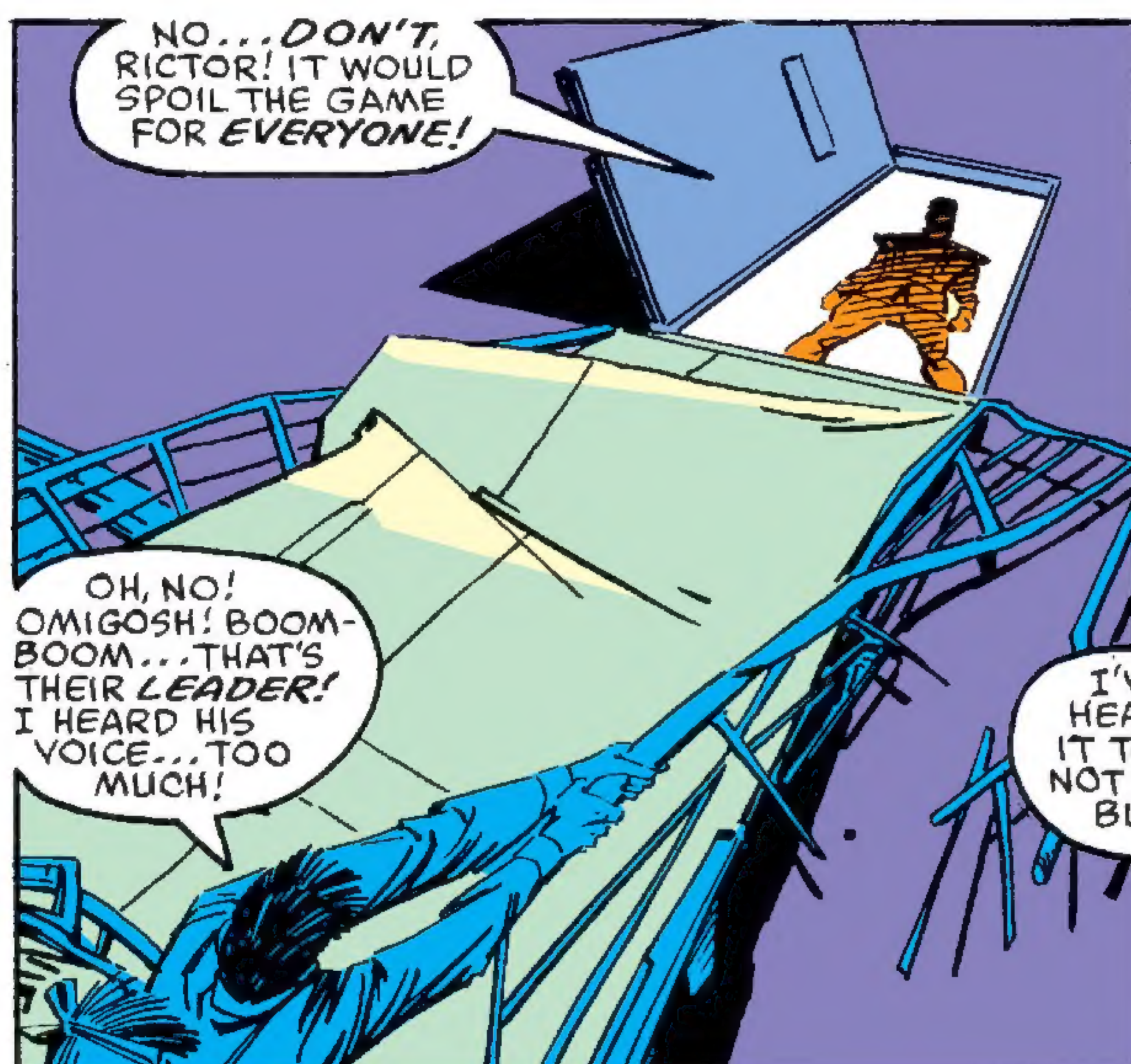
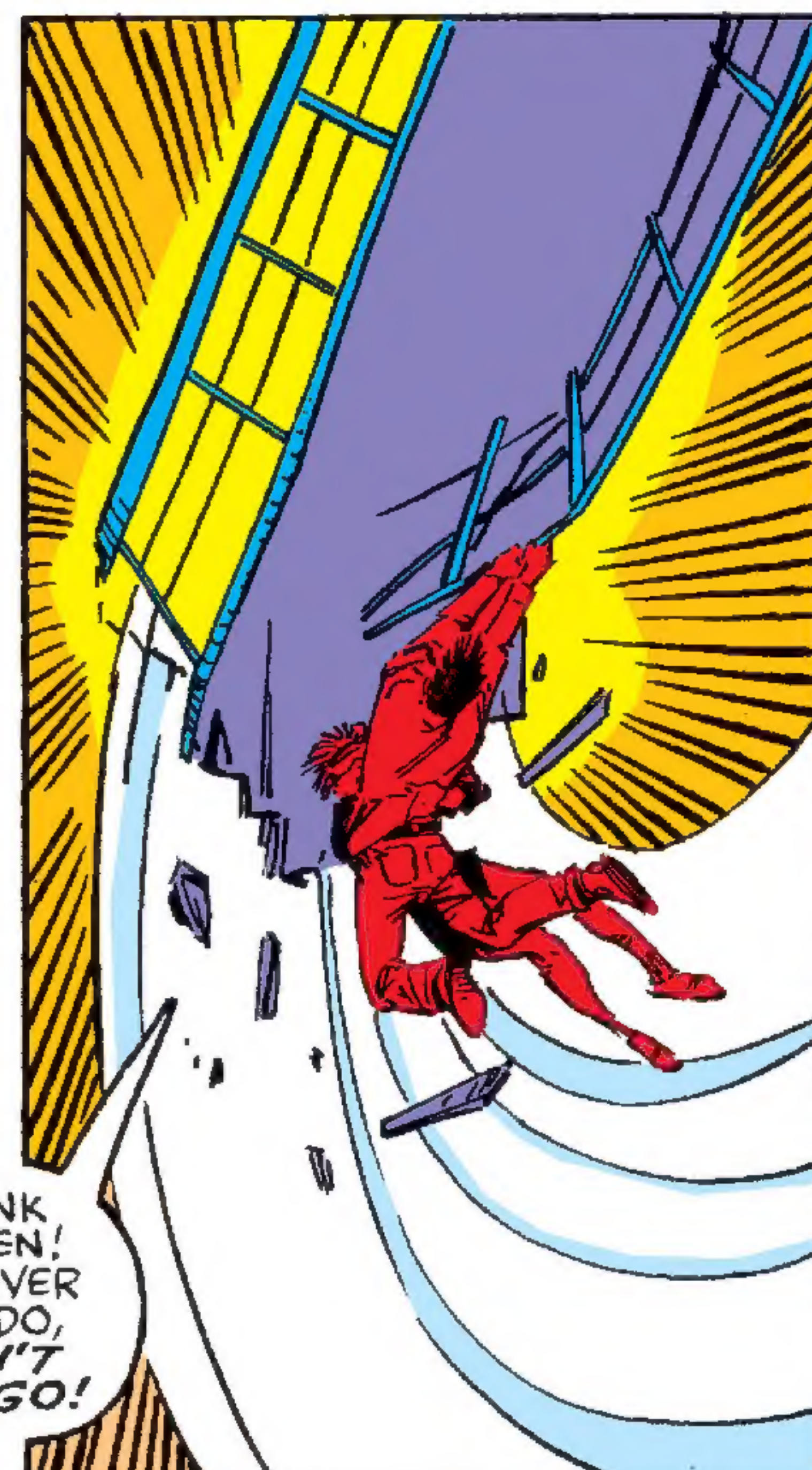
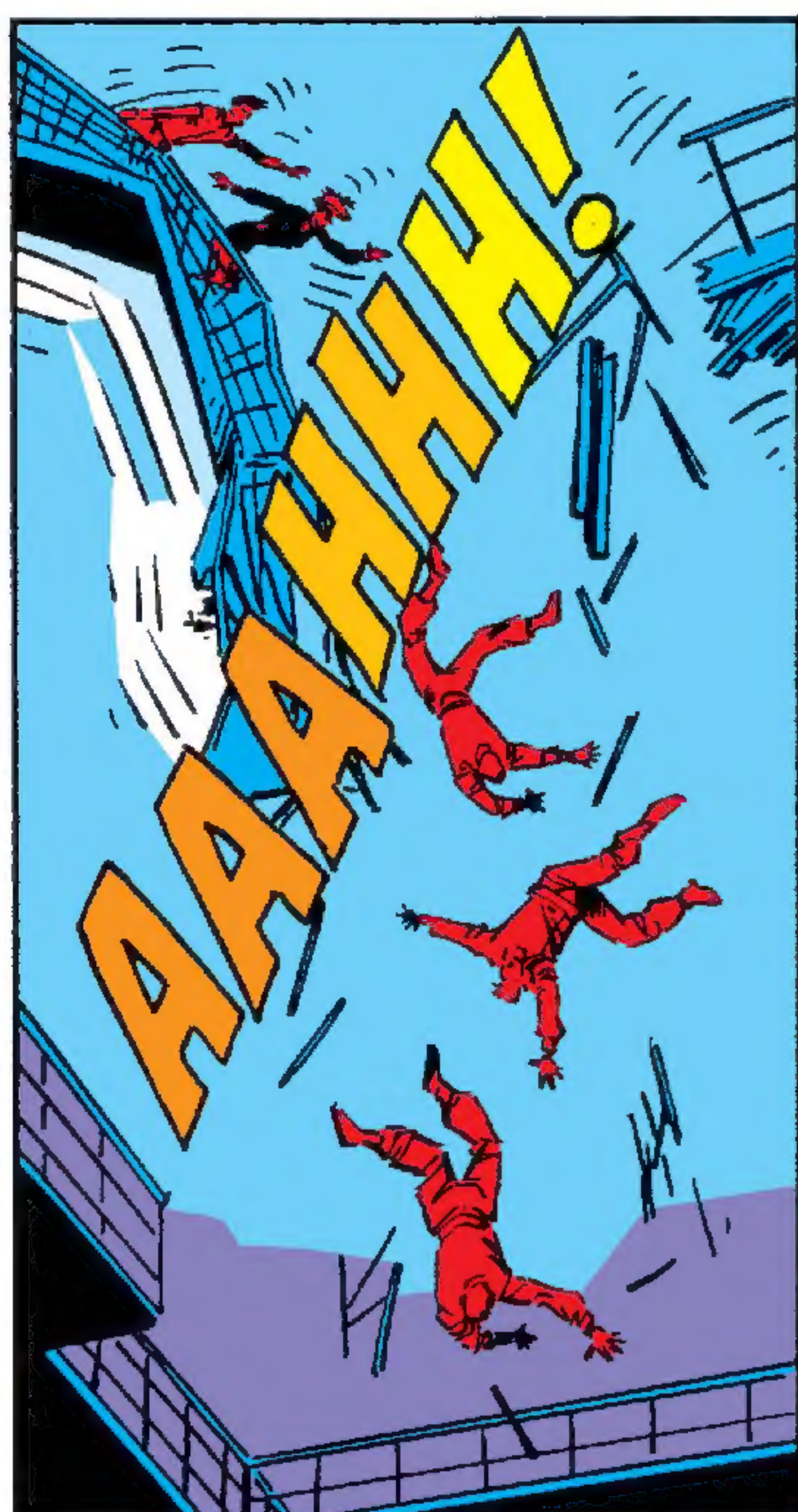














I'M GONNA SHAKE US LOOSE! WE'D BE BETTER OFF DEAD, REALLY!

NO! RICTOR, SUICIDE DOESN'T MAKE ANYTHING BETTER.

ANGEL KILLED HIMSELF AND SEE HOW MUCH WORSE HE MADE EVERYTHING?

IF HE WAS STILL ALIVE, THERE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN A READING OF HIS WILL...

...AND NONE OF THIS WOULD'VE HAPPENED AND WE WOULDN'T EVEN BE HERE!

LOOK, I SAVED YOU. NOW YOU GOTTA SAVE ME ... AN' GOING UP THERE IS THE ONLY WAY TA DO THAT!

RICTOR... I DON'T WANNA DIE!

OKAY... ALL RIGHT ... YOU WIN! I'M CLIMBIN'!

AFTER ALL, YOU FOUND US, AN' YOU'RE JUST A KID, I BET X-FACTOR WILL TOO. THEY'RE PROBABLY OUT THERE RIGHT NOW--

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL, DOESN'T IT, RICTOR?

WE ARE WELL HIDDEN, HERE... AND X-FACTOR IS USELESS!

BUT YOU... YOU ARE ALMOST INFINITELY USEFUL. YOUR POWER OF DESTRUCTION IS NEAR UNPARALLELED...

...AND, NOW, THAT POWER IS MINE!

RICTOR! THE RIGHT'S COMMANDER-- I KNOW HIM!

IT'S CAMERON HODGE!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

FIND OUT IN NEXT ISSUE'S EPIC EXTRAVAGANZA-- A TALE THAT COULD ONLY BE CALLED...

**YOU SAY YOU WANT SOME EVOLUTION?**

A WORD TO THE WISE... DON'T MISS IT!